

→ ANNALS ←
OF
✠ TRINITY CHURCH ✠

→ * NEWPORT, R. I. * ←

✠ GEORGE ✠ CHAMPLIN ✠ MASON ✠

SECOND SERIES

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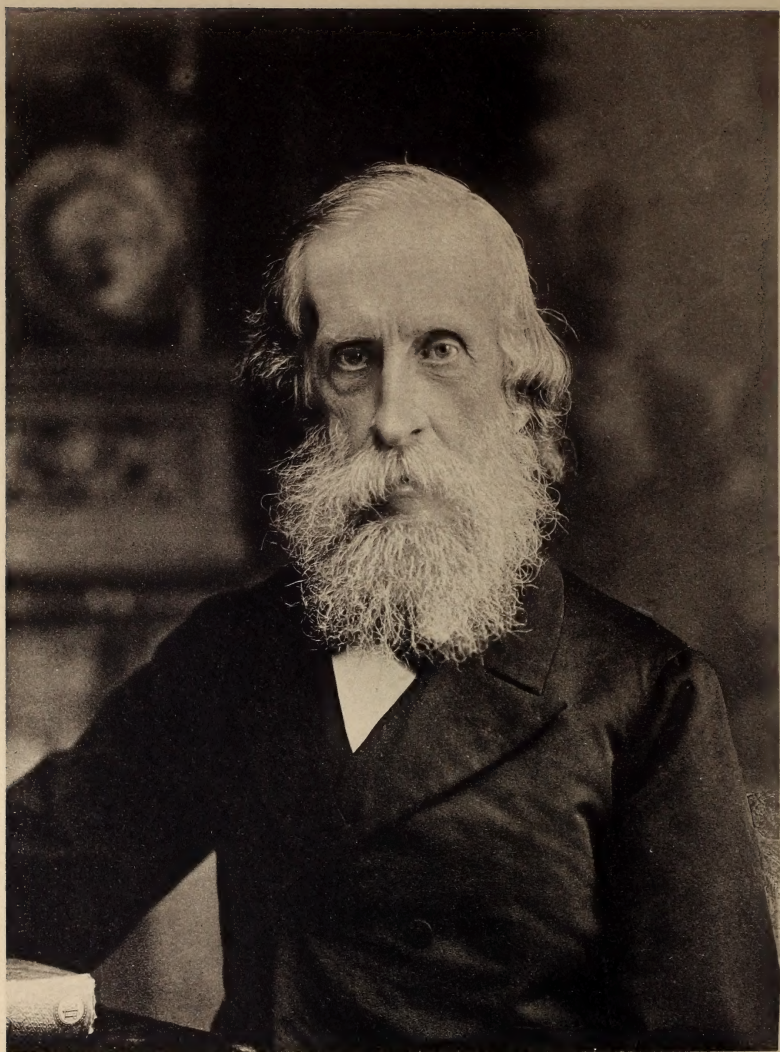


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ANNALS
OF
TRINITY CHURCH,
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND,

1821-1892.

BY
GEORGE CHAMPLIN MASON.

SECOND SERIES.



V. MOTT FRANCIS, M. D.
NEWPORT, R. I.
1894.

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F. W. MARSHALL, PRINTER,
NEWPORT, R. I.

1805018



TO THE MEMORY

OF

The Reverend Salmon Wbeaton, D. D.,

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED

BY

THE AUTHOR:

WHO, BAPTIZED BY HIM IN INFANCY,

AND ONE OF THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY CHURCH

FROM HIS YOUTH,

RETAINS A VIVID IMPRESSION

OF

HIS KINDLY PRESENCE AND LIFE OF HOLINESS.



Newport, R. I., June 6th, 1894.

At a meeting of the Vestry of Trinity Church, held in Kay Chapel this afternoon, the following resolution was unanimously passed:

Resolved: The Vestry having heard that a second volume of the ANNALS OF TRINITY CHURCH has been compiled by the late George C. Mason, and that it is about to be published by Dr. V. Mott Francis, desire to put on record their appreciation of the work of their venerated late Senior Warden and to commend the new book to those interested in the history of Trinity Church.

A true copy,

Attest:

ARCHIBALD B. SAYER, Clerk.

PREFACE.

It was made known by a circular issued December 6, 1892, that a member of the Vestry of Trinity Church, Dr. V. Mott Francis, with the approval of the Rector of Trinity Church, and of the Author of the "Annals of Trinity Church," was to obtain subscriptions to the Second Series of the "Annals," bringing it down to Easter, 1892. To do this with embellishments would make it necessary to raise the sum of \$2000.

A year had elapsed, and with the best efforts of Dr. Francis, owing to the depressed state of the times, less than one-half of the above amount had been paid in or pledged. Under these circumstances it was apparent that the publication must be abandoned, if the cost of production could not be reduced.

Rather than take the former step, Dr. Francis assumed the responsibility of publishing, and arranged to put to press an edition of three hundred copies, omitting some of the proposed embellishments.

The work has now been completed, and the Publisher, in bringing it to the notice of the public, takes pride and pleasure in pointing to the volume from the press of Mr. F. W. Marshall, as a most successful specimen of typographical art: creditable alike to the printer and the city of Newport.

THE PUBLISHER.

Newport, R. I., June, 1894.

At a meeting of the Vestry of Trinity Church, held in Kay Chapel, Monday, February 12th, 1894, the following preamble and resolutions, presented by Dr. V. Mott Francis, were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God to remove from the scene of his faithful labors our beloved late Senior Warden, GEORGE CHAMPLIN MASON, therefore

Resolved: that we bow in humble submission to the will of Our Heavenly Father, knowing that He doeth all things well.

Resolved: that in the death of this faithful servant of the Church, who for forty years was in the Vestry, during thirty of which he filled the arduous position of Senior Warden, with a thoroughness, fidelity and wisdom seldom equalled and rarely surpassed, that Trinity Church has sustained a great loss, the Church at large a wise and honest counsellor, the community a pure minded, industrious citizen, and the world a true Christian gentleman.

Resolved: that the Vestry of Trinity Church sympathize most deeply with the widow and son in their great affliction.

Resolved: that a copy of these resolutions be printed in the *Daily News* of this city and *Living Church* of Chicago, and that a copy also be presented to the family of the deceased.

A true copy,

Attest:

ARCHIBALD B. SAYER, Clerk.

December 5, 1821. Voted: that the Senior Warden be authorized to procure one copper pipe for the stove.

Voted: that the Vestry, in consideration of the state of the treasury, think it imprudent to furnish the Rector with any wood.

December 23, 1821. Meeting of the Corporation. Voted: that the pipes [stove] be continued to be run out of the windows in the same way as usual.

Voted: that the Rector be furnished with six cords of oak wood, including carting, sawing and piling, and that the Rector be informed that this is the last donation of wood to be made by the Corporation, and that the Secretary be, and he is hereby directed to furnish him with a copy of this vote.

June 5, 1822. Voted: that a committee be appointed to make sundry needed repairs on the parsonage, and on the belfry of the School House.

November 25, 1822. An application being made to this Vestry by the Rector, through the Senior Warden, that he be furnished his winter's wood, and whereas this Vestry are clearly of the opinion that they do not possess that power;

Voted: that the Rector be requested to call a meeting of the Congregation, after service in the afternoon, on Sunday next, to take the matter into their consideration, and that the Rector be furnished with a copy of this vote for that purpose.

December 2, 1822. Meeting of the Corporation. A motion to furnish the Rector with his winter's wood was negatived by a decided majority: whereupon the following resolution was put and carried unanimously:

Voted: that the salary of the Rector be raised sixty dollars, commencing from last Easter.

January 8, 1823. The committee appointed to investigate the state of the Poor Fund, made their report, which was received and ordered to be recorded with the accompanying documents.

On the 7th day of June, A. D. 1758, William Tate, by his

last will and testament, gave a lot of land and messuage thereon to the poor of this Church; on the 3d day of April, 1800, this estate was leased to John Yeomans, for the term of 999 years, for the sum of eight hundred dollars.

On the 19th day of May, 1806, a lot of land containing three and a half acres, was purchased of Lawrence Clarke, for the sum of seven hundred dollars, arising from the leasing of the Tate estate to Yeomans; on the 20th day of April, 1822, was leased to George Harkness, for the term of 999 years, for the sum of six hundred and forty-five dollars, and on the same day it was paid to the Treasurer of this Corporation. On the 7th day of March, 1808, Mrs. Judith Tillinghast, jointly with her sister, Miss Ayrault, gave one hundred dollars to the poor of the Church.

On the 22d day of August, of the same year, a share, No. 1221, was purchased in the stock of the Rhode Island Union Bank, which cost one hundred and sixteen dollars. One hundred dollars of its cost was furnished by the aforesaid bequest, and sixteen dollars was taken from the Poor Fund for that purpose.

On the 13th of March, 1810, John Bours, Esq., was indebted to the Poor Fund the sum of \$560.74, for which amount he gave his note, endorsed by Stephen T. Northam. This note was surrendered to Mr. Bours by Mr. John Banister giving his note for this amount by his mother, Mrs. Christian Banister, which sum is secured to the Poor Fund by Mrs. Christian Banister giving a mortgage upon a lot of land situated in this town. This sum accrued to the Poor Fund by the difference arising upon the lease of Clarke, and also other funds of the poor then in the hands of Mr. Bours.

On the 5th day of November, 1800, William Croke and William R. Robinson, Esquires, then Wardens of this Church, gave a bond, in the penalty of \$800 conditional to pay \$400 and annually to pay interest \$24 to the Poor Fund. This sum of \$400 arose on the sale of the estate given by Robert Wheatly, Esq., for the benefit of the poor. The aforesaid sum of \$400 was borrowed by the Corporation, to repair and enlarge the parsonage. The interest arising on this sum being \$24 per annum, has not been paid for three years last past.

On the 13th day of December a liquidated account, amounting to \$154.72, was made to the Vestry, by William Littlefield and William Wood, Esquires, then Wardens of the Church, of the rent and profits of the Tate estate, leased to Joseph Dyer to that period, who recommended at the same meeting of the Vestry to pay the sum of \$10 for the interest of the same annually to the poor, namely, at Christmas, in addition to the collection made on that day, after that year, which the Vestry had agreed to allow, as they were heirs, the money by passing a previous vote for that purpose, on the 5th of November, 1804, which sum of \$10 has not been paid for the three last years.

Benjamin Gardner, Esq., by his last will and testament, gave to the Poor Fund \$100, and the \$6 interest due thereon was paid to the Rector, who distributed it to the poor. This donation was paid to the Wardens of this Church on the 11th of December, 1810.

A note of \$50.55, dated May 20, 1810, with interest and now in the hands of the Treasurer, was given by Mrs. Banister, for the interest arising on the note given by her son John, antecedent to her giving her mortgage.

Taking the aforesaid sums as a data to predicate a calculation upon, the Poor Fund will amount to the sum of \$1,929.01 from which deduct several losses, amounting to \$429.29 in the aggregate.

By the above statement it results that the sum of \$1,501.72 is due from this Corporation to the Poor Fund, which has, from time to time been taken and hired from it and employed by this Institution, for its own use and purposes.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

BENJ. B. MUMFORD,
SAM'L. WHITEHORNE,
Committee.

The following note was at this time addressed by the Rector to Benj. B. Mumford, Secretary:

Dear Sir: In compliance with your request, I have examined the annual lists of the poor of Trinity Church, and of the monies received for their use, and find that the interest on the

Poor Bond (so called) has not been received since December, 1819, and that no income has been received from the lot of land on the hill, lately belonging to the poor, since December, 1820.

Very Respectfully yours,
S. WHEATON.

March 27, 1823. Special meeting of the Vestry, when the following resolutions relating to the Poor Fund were passed:

Voted and Resolved: that eight shares of the Rhode Island Union Bank, issued to the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, be transferred as a fund for the Poor of Trinity Church: the interest of which to be annually distributed to the Poor, in proportion to their situation and wants.

Voted and Resolved: that it shall be the duty of the Senior and Junior Wardens, every year, in the month of December, to make out a list of all the Poor belonging to this Church, and exhibit the same to the last Vestry meeting previous to Christmas, for their inspection, and that they request the Rector to assist them in that duty.

Voted: that at the last meeting of the Vestry previous to Christmas, in every year, the members thereof shall take up the list of the Poor of the Church, exhibited by the Wardens, and with the assistance of the Rector, examine into their several situations and necessities, and distribute the interest arising from the bank shares transferred as a Poor Fund, in proportion to their respective wants; and if that sum should prove insufficient to make them comfortable, with the amount collected on Christmas Day in the Church, then the Vestry shall have power at their discretion, to take such sums as they may think proper from any other funds belonging to the Church, as will relieve their distresses, provided they do not interfere with the Permanent Fund.

Voted: that if the Poor of the Church should be diminished

in numbers, or their situation such as not to require the whole of the interest arising on the bank shares funded for the Poor, in addition to the collection made on Christmas Day, in the Church, in that case the surplus shall be passed over to the Treasurer to meet the current expenses of the Church.

Voted: that the Rector, should he be called upon, or in visiting the Poor of the Church he should find them sick and in distress, without any means of relief, he shall have power at all times to draw on the Senior Warden for any sum not exceeding three dollars, which shall be paid to his order on the Treasurer; provided that the amount does not exceed \$35 per year.

April 1, 1823. At an adjourned meeting of the Corporation the following officers were elected:

Samuel Whitehorne, *Senior Warden.*

William H. Rathbone,¹ *Junior Warden.*

Stephen T. Northam, B. B. Mumford, William Crooke, Edward Brinley, J. S. Whitehorne, John P. Mann, Levi Tower, Robinson Potter, John B. Lyon, Charles Collins,² *Vestrymen.*

¹ WILLIAM H. RATHBONE, son of Captain Joshua Rathbone by his second wife, Ann Sears, daughter of George Sears (a well-known man in his day), was born June 4, 1796. He was engaged in business, but was unsuccessful, died of consumption, and was buried May 21, 1827, aged 30 years. January 5, 1823, he married Sarah Ann Centre, daughter of James Centre, and another daughter married Captain William Norris, of this port. His only son went to California, and died there. George S. Rathbone, brother of William H., removed to Providence.

² CHARLES COLLINS was born at Warren, R. I., became a shipmaster and hailed from Bristol. In 1801 he was appointed Collector of the District of Bristol and Warren. When he retired from that office he removed to Newport, using here, as he had done in Bristol, his capital in commercial pursuits. In 1823 he had a seat in the Legislature. He owned and occupied the fine house on School Street, next north of Masonic Hall. About 1832 he purchased the Dudley place, in Middletown, now the property of Major Henry Bull, and made that his home during the rest of his days. From 1824 to 1833 he filled the office of Lieutenant Governor of the State. Through a long life he enjoyed the confidence and respect of a large circle of friends. He died June 2, 1845, aged 74 years.

James Mumford, *Treasurer*; Stephen H. Cahoon, *Secretary*; Eliza Davis, *Organist*; John Springer, *Sexton*.

Voted and Resolved: that the tax on the pews be reduced to six dollars, and that the Trustee of the Permanent Fund be, and he is hereby directed, to carry it into operation.

Voted: that the Senior Warden and Secretary, be a committee to cause two hundred copies of the Charter to be printed.

April 9, 1823. Voted, at a meeting of the Vestry: that Samuel Whitehorne, Esq., the Senior Warden be, and he is hereby directed to transfer eight shares in the stock of the Rhode Island Union Bank to the Rector, Wardens and Vestry, in trust, as a Permanent Fund, for the benefit of the Poor of the Church, in conformity to a vote passed on the evening of March 27, 1823.

Voted: that the Wardens be directed to give public notice in the *Newport Mercury*, to the owners of the gallery pews, that they will be sold at public auction, on the twelfth of July next, if the taxes now due on them are not paid on or before that day.

May 6, 1823. On motion, made and seconded, that the Rector attend the General Convention, to be holden in Philadelphia, on the 21st inst., it was

Voted: that the Vestry consider it inexpedient for the Rector to attend the General Convention at the expense of the Church.

August 6, 1823. Voted by the Vestry, that the Wardens be authorized to make such arrangements as to the location of Blacks in the gallery, as may be agreeable to the proprietors of the gallery pews.

Sale of fifty pews in the gallery of Trinity Church, forfeited for non-payment of taxes, by J. B. Lyon, Auctioneer.

No. 1 to No. 8, inclusive, to Trinity Church.

“ 9. John B. Lyon.

“ 10. John B. Lyon.^{2½}

^{2½} JOHN BOWEN LYON, son of Joseph Lyon, was a ship chandler in Newport, but not being successful in business, he entered the employ of Colonel

- " 11. John Woods.³
- " 12. John Woods.
- " 13. Benjamin Brenton.
- " 14. Not sold.
- " 15 to 39, inclusive, to Trinity Church.
- " 110. Stephen T. Northam.
- " 111. Stephen T. Northam.
- " 112. Trinity Church.
- " 42 to 57, inclusive, to Trinity Church.

November 5, 1832. Voted: that the Secretary be authorized to purchase a book, for the purpose of recording the deeds of sale of pews in the Church, and that he be directed to transfer from the old records the deeds which may be recorded in them, and that he present his bill to the Vestry, for payment.

December 26, 1823. The Senior Warden made a report of the number of the Poor, and their wants, &c., which was read and ordered to be recorded.

Voted: that the sum of \$140 be distributed among the Poor, and that the balance of \$30 be credited to the Poor Fund, to be distributed next year.

Annual Meeting, April 18, 1824. Voted; that the tax on the pews on the lower floor be reduced to five dollars.

Voted: that the tax on the gallery pews be assessed at one dollar, and that the owners of gallery pews who have purchased within the past year, be allowed to deed them back to the Church.

Totten, as superintendent of workmen, at Fort Adams, in which employ he remained up to the time of his death. He married Elizabeth Thurston, February 15, 1815. She survived him, and removed to New York. Her daughters were distinguished for their beauty.

³ CAPTAIN JOHN WOOD died at Cape Coast, Africa, in 1826, aged 56 years. He was an enterprising and skillful mariner, and both as a merchant and navigator he was highly respected. In the war of 1812 he commanded the corps raised by the State for the defence of Newport Harbor, "with credit to himself and satisfaction to the State and General Government."

April 25, 1824. Joshua Sayre was elected Treasurer in place of James Mumford, who had declined serving, and a committee was appointed to transfer the books to Mr. Sayre.

October 6, 1824. The Vestry, having taken into consideration a letter from a committee appointed by the citizens of the town, inquiring if the town could have the use of the School House, provided they should carry into operation the system of free schools as established in Providence: it was

Voted: that the town may have the School House for such rent and on such terms as the Vestry may deem fair and reasonable, and that the Secretary be requested to communicate to them a copy of this vote.

November 10, 1824. Voted: that the Sexton and the Congregation be respectfully prohibited from taking fire out of the stoves, on Sundays or Prayer Days: and that the Sexton be made responsible to this Vestry for every violation of this vote: and that all votes heretofore passed upon this subject be repealed.

January 5, 1825. Voted: that George Fairweather and R. Rodman, two infirm blacks, have permission to occupy the pew under the south stairs.

Voted: that pews No. 17 and 18, at the corners of the middle aisle, be appropriated to the use of strangers, and that Stephen T. Northam be a committee to have them lettered in a suitable manner.⁵

Voted: that the Wardens be instructed to allow no colored person to sit in the north gallery, in conformity to the conditions on which the pews were sold, and that they be requested to locate them in the upper seats of the south gallery.⁴

⁵ THE two pews, known as "free pews," were on the first floor, under the organ loft, in front of pews 36 and 37. They were removed some years ago, to widen the aisle running from the north door to the south door.

⁴ THERE was a row of pews in the galleries, against the north and south walls, set apart for the colored portion of the congregation. They were so raised that the occupants could see the preacher over the heads of those

January 8, 1825. A motion having been made and seconded at a meeting of the Vestry, to repeal the vote passed at the last meeting of the Vestry, relating to the expulsion of the Blacks from the north gallery, and an animated discussion having taken place thereon, a motion was made and seconded for an indefinite postponement, which, on being put, was carried in the affirmative.

April 4, 1825. Easter meeting of the Corporation.

Voted: that the committee appointed last year, for the purpose of securing the Permanent Fund irrevocably for the use of the Corporation, be continued, and that the interest, and the interest only, shall be used by the Corporation. Benjamin Hazard to be added to the committee.

Voted: that the Junior Warden be authorized to select and appoint a person to assist him in collecting the taxes now due, or shall become due and payable during the ensuing year: he being responsible for the integrity and faithfulness of the person by him selected, and that he pay him for his service a sum not exceeding ten dollars.

June 1, 1825. An application having been made by John Rodman, for the use of the School House, it was voted that he might have it upon the usual terms.

June 17, 1825. Whereas Samuel Brown,⁶ Esq., late of Boston, did by his last will and testament bequeath to the Permanent Fund of Trinity Church the sum of \$1,000, it is therefore

who sat in the front pews in the gallery. There are a few of these pews still standing in the north gallery, but those on the south side were removed when the system of pews in that gallery was changed, in 1846.

⁶ MR. SAMUEL BROWN died in Boston, May 22, 1825, aged 72 years. He was a man of liberal means, and besides his gift to Trinity Church he was a benefactor of the Redwood Library. During a residence of 48 years in Boston he acquired, by his public services and private acts of benevolence, general respect, and the individual affection and gratitude of large numbers in that city. Funeral services were held by Rev. Dr. Gardiner, at Trinity Church, Boston, and his remains were brought to Newport and placed by those of other members of his family.

Voted: that Samuel Whitehorne, Esq., Trustee of the Permanent Fund, is duly authorized and empowered, by virtue of his appointment as Trustee, to receive of the executor of Mr. Brown, the aforesaid sum, and to give such acquittance as shall be satisfactory to said executor.

August, 1825. Voted: that the pews on the south side of the gallery, now occupied by the Sunday School, and belonging to the Church, be retained for the use of the school.

November 2, 1825. Voted: that the sum of \$25 be appropriated for the payment of the Rector's expenses, attending the Diocesan Convention, holden in Boston.

March 26, 1826. Annual meeting of the Corporation. The following persons were present:

Rev. Salmon Wheaton, Rector; Robinson Potter, Samuel Whitehorne, B. B. Mumford, David Melville, Thomas Breese, James Mumford, Stephen A. Robinson,¹⁰ William Crooke, Edward Brinley, Isaiah Crooker, Henry Potter,⁷ Charles Cotton,⁸ Joshua Sayre, Stephen H. Cahoone.

¹⁰ STEPHEN AYRAULT ROBINSON was the son of William C. Robinson, who traced his descent from Rowland Robinson, who settled in Narragansett in the early days of the Colony. His mother was the daughter of Edward Wanton and Frances Ayrault, his wife. When a boy Colonel Robinson tried the sea, but tired of it and devoted himself to mercantile pursuits in Newport, in what is now the Merchants Bank building. Unfortunate in this, he was employed for a time on Fort Adams, then in course of construction, and from Newport he removed to Narragansett, where he spent the remainder of his days in agricultural pursuits. From 1832 to 1837 he was in command of the Newport Artillery Company. He died at Wakefield, R. I., without issue, April 8, 1877, aged 78 years. His wife was the daughter of Jeremiah N. Potter, of South Kingston.

⁷ HENRY POTTER, who was in sympathy with the movement that resulted in the organization of Zion Church, was a respectable grocer, in Newport; born in 1786, and died in 1856. He was a nephew of Samuel J. Potter, U. S. Senator, who died on the floor of the Senate in 1804, and his sister married Nicholas Easton, who owned a large estate near Easton's beach; now taken up by villas and summer cottages. Mr. Potter's portrait, painted by the late Benjamin B. Howland, was, after his death, presented to the Newport Historical Society.

The following officers were elected:

Samuel Whitehorne, *Senior Warden*.

Stephen A. Robinson, *Junior Warden*.

Edward Brinley, B. B. Mumford,^{10½} William Crooke, John G. Whitehorne, Levi Tower, Robinson Potter, Robert Robinson, S. H. Cahoon, Joshua Sayre, Thomas W. Brown, Nicholas G. Boss,⁹ *Vestrymen*.

Voted: that the salary of the Rector be raised to \$800 and that of the Sexton to \$50. The latter on the condition that he keep the Church in perfect order.

March 30, 1826. Voted: that the Wardens be authorized to remit to occupants of pews owned by the Corporation, such part of the annual tax as was assessed upon them on Easter Monday last, as they may deem necessary and expedient; provided such relinquishments made, shall not in any instance reduce the tax below five dollars per annum.

April 4, 1827. Voted: that the Vestry recommend to the Congregation, at their next meeting, to contribute as much as

⁸ DR. CHARLES COTTON was born in Plymouth, Mass., and graduated at Harvard. In the war of 1812 he entered the navy as a Surgeon's Mate, and saw considerable service. June 8, 1817, he married Mary Cotton, daughter of Captain Stephen T. Northam. He retired from the service in 1823, entered upon a professional career in Newport, and here resided up to the time of his death.

⁹ NICHOLAS GARDNER BOSS was the son of John Lascom Boss. He held the office of Cashier of the Rhode Island Union Bank for several years, and died in the West Indies, where he had gone with the hope of recovering his health. He married Abby Bradford D'Wolf, daughter of Charles D'Wolf, of Portsmouth, R. I., September 30, 1821, and died without issue.

^{10½} BENJAMIN B. MUMFORD, son of Benjamin Mumford, was early engaged in business in New York, in the house of John P. Mumford & Co., 1790, and Murray & Mumford in 1796, shortly after which date he took up his residence in Newport. He suffered severely from French depredations. In April, 1813, he was appointed Postmaster at Newport, and held the office up to the time of his death in 1827. In the affairs of Trinity Church he took an active part; and for a number of years served as Secretary of the Vestry.

they may think proper, towards defraying the expense of paving the street north of the Church.

April 16, 1827. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 57 Corporators being present, besides the Rector.

Voted: that the Vestry be directed to pay to the Street Commissioners such sum of money as they may deem expedient towards repairing Church street.

Voted: that the Wardens are directed not to sell any gallery pew for less than \$25, nor let any the ensuing year.

The tax on the lower floor was fixed at \$5.00.

Eliza Davis and Maria Burdick were each nominated for organist. [For some time there had been a rivalry between these ladies, who were sustained by their friends. When the house was called, there were 28 votes for Miss Burdick, an equal number for Miss Davis, and 1 for Miss Moore. That the contest was lively is shown by the large number of Corporators (57) present; at the annual meeting of the previous year there were but 15 persons present, including the Rector.] There being no choice, a motion was put and carried, postponing the election to the following Easter.

May 3, 1827. A communication was received from Miss Eliza Davis, addressed to the Wardens, and by them laid before the Vestry: whereupon it was

Voted: that the services of Miss Davis be accepted until the Congregation see fit to appoint an organist; and in the mean time, if Miss Davis should think herself unable to officiate, that she give due notice thereof to the Wardens: provided, nevertheless, that she serve gratuitously.

May 24, 1827. Voted: that the Vestry deem it inexpedient to admit the Union Sunday School into the Church School House, and that the Rector be requested to communicate the same to Mr. Brown.¹¹

¹¹ THE old Mill Street School House stood on ground now occupied by

June 25, 1827. An application having been made to the Rector, by the Town's Committee, for the use of the Church for the ensuing 4th of July celebration, and by the Rector laid before the Vestry, it was

Voted: that the Vestry will allow the Church edifice to be used on the coming occasion.

June 26, 1827. Meeting of the Corporation.

The Committee appointed on Easter Monday, April 1, 1825, to inquire into the measures necessary to be adopted for the better security of the Permanent Fund; reported, that it is necessary to apply to the General Assembly of the State, for the purpose of obtaining the passage of the Act, which follows:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE INVESTMENT OF CERTAIN FUNDS,
BELONGING TO TRINITY CHURCH, IN NEWPORT.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly, That the fund heretofore raised by subscription, donations, legacies, or otherwise, and intended by the subscribers, donors, &c., to be a Permanent Fund for the better support of Trinity Church, in Newport, and now, with the interest thereon amounting to the sum of ten thousand five hundred dollars (par value) being invested in some safe and profitable stock or stocks, or real estate, in the Name and right of the Minister, Church-Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church, in Newport, shall remain so

the Coddington school house. The corner stone was laid by Lieutenant Governor Collins, July 14, 1826, prayer being offered by Rev. William Gam-mell of the Second Baptist Society. This was the outgrowth of a move made in 1825; when, at a Town Meeting in March of that year, a report on the subject of free schools, drawn up by Rev. Dr. Patten, of the Congregational Church, was read; and on motion of Hon. Dutee J. Pearce, it was voted that it is expedient and just to establish free schools in the Town of Newport, to be maintained at the expense of the Town. Messrs. Richard K. Randolph, Dutee J. Pearce, Dr. Charles Cotton, Dr. Benjamin Case, David Melville, George Tilley and John Sterne were appointed a committee to digest and present a plan.

The school was opened to all comers, May 21, 1827, and one hundred

invested, together with all sum or sums which may hereafter be raised in the way or manner aforesaid, permanently and untransferable, except by the act of the Corporation, at a regular meeting, with notice of the business to be transacted; which act, to be valid, shall require the presence and the concurring vote of at least three-fourths of the whole Male members of said Corporation, who shall at the time be owners of pews in said Church, or part owners, with authority in writing from a majority of all the part owners, to act in their stead. And the said Fund, in whatever manner the same may at any time be invested, shall remain unimpaired and undiminished by any act of said Corporation; and the accruing interest, dividends or profits thereof only, shall be at the disposal of said Corporation, agreeably to the terms of the original subscriptions.

Whereupon it was Voted and Resolved: that Benjamin Hazard, Samuel Whitehorne and N. G. Boss, Esquires, be appointed a Committee to apply to the Legislature, to obtain the passage of the foregoing Act.

December 5, 1827. Voted: that the Senior Warden be authorized and directed, to request Miss Easton and Miss Burdick, to officiate on the organ alternately, on Sundays and Holy Days, at such times as Mrs. Lee may not find it convenient to attend.

[Mrs. Lee was the Miss Davis who had had the contest with

and twenty boys presented themselves for admission. The building had a seating capacity of two hundred. The school was placed under the care of Mr. William Guild, a most estimable man and a successful teacher.

Trinity Church Vestry had agreed to comply with the request of a Town's Committee, October 6, 1824, to put at their disposal the Church School House, to try the experiment of organizing a free school; as will be seen on page 17. But when application was made to the Vestry by a like committee, May, 1827, for the School House, for the use of the Union Sunday School, then organized, it was thought best, both by the Vestry and the public, that the school should be located in the new Mill Street building. This was carried into effect, and Mr. Guild was made Superintendent. Both teachers and scholars were drawn from the different denominations in the town.

Miss Burdick for the position of organist, as noted under date of April 16, 1827. In the meantime she had married Robert P. Lee; and it was evidently supposed, or understood, by the Vestry, that after that event she could not be counted on to fill the position of organist regularly: hence the above election. The old rivalry on the music question still existed in the Church, and as neither faction was willing to give way, the honors were divided between the two ladies who sought the position.]

January 2, 1828. Voted: that the Wardens be authorized to hire a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars for sixty days, to meet the current expenses of the Church.

Voted: that Captain Stephen T. Northam and Captain Robinson Potter, be a committee to witness the transfer of the stock of the Permanent Fund, from Samuel Whitehorne, Esq., Trustee thereof, to the Minister, Church Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church, agreeably to an Act of the General Assembly, passed at the June Session, 1827, and that they report their doings to the Vestry.

April 2, 1828. Voted: that the copy of the receipt given by Joshua Sayre, Treasurer, to Samuel Whitehorne, Senior Warden, for the bank stock belonging to the Permanent Fund and Poor Fund, and other stocks, be recorded on the books of the Corporation.

Newport, March 6, 1828. Received of Samuel Whitehorne, late Trustee to the Permanent Fund of Trinity Church, the following certificates of Bank Stock belonging to said fund, agreeably to the vote of said Church, passed the 5th inst.

- 1 Certificate, 78 shares in Rhode Island Union Bank.
- 1 Certificate, 14 shares in the Newport Bank.
- 1 Certificate, 10 shares in Bank of Rhode Island.
- 1 Certificate, 10 shares in the Merchants Bank.

JOSHUA SAYRE, Treasurer.

Newport, March 6, 1828. Received of Samuel Whitehorne, Senior Warden of Trinity Church, the following certificates of Bank Stock belonging to said Church, agreeably to the vote of the Vestry of said Church, passed the 5th inst. Thirteen Certificates for 14 shares in Rhode Island Union Bank. One ditto for 2 shares in Bank of Rhode Island. One ditto for 8 shares in Rhode Island Union Bank, for the Poor Fund of said Church.

[Not signed.]

April 7, 1828. Annual Meeting, the Rector and 37 Corporators being present. The following officers were elected:

Edward Brinley, *Senior Warden*.

Stephen H. Cahoone, *Junior Warden*.

William Crooke, John G. Whitehorne, Stephen T. Northam, Robinson Potter, Robert Robinson, Thomas W. Brown, Levi Tower, Stephen A. Robinson, William Littlefield and George Irish, *Vestrymen*. Joshua Sayre, *Treasurer*. and John B. Newton, *Secretary*.

Voted: that the Senior Warden be authorized and directed to pay to the Street Commissioner the sum of \$100, whenever the Commissioner shall cause Church street to be re-paved, with a good sidewalk on the north side, from Spring to Thames street, provided the Church shall not be assessed for the same.

Voted: that Mrs. Lee, Miss Easton and Miss Burdick be allowed \$30 each, for their services as organist the past year.

Voted: that the pew tax on the lower floor be \$5, and that the price of the gallery pews be reduced to \$18.00.

Voted: that Henry Bull, Stephen T. Northam and Samuel Whitehorne be a Committee to examine the Parsonage and ascertain if it is worthy of repairs; and if not, that they endeavor to make an estimate of the probable cost of a brick building.

[The subject of needed repairs, or the building of a new parsonage had evidently come up before, although no mention of it is made in the records, nor is there anything to show that

the following letter from the Rector was laid before the Corporation. The building was old and inconvenient, and but little had been done to keep it up beyond what was absolutely necessary to make it habitable.]

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

Gentlemen: Being requested by you to state in writing my views respecting a parsonage, &c., I am disposed to comply with your wishes, though I feel it a delicate subject for me to say much about.

My first ideas correspond with those of the late Senior Warden, by whom the subject was first brought forward, to remove the present parsonage house, and erect a new one on the same lot. And this I should still wish, would circumstances admit.

But finding from the estimate of the Committee and others, that the expense of erecting a suitable house would exceed what was first expected, and might embarrass the funds of the Corporation, it is my opinion that it would be better to postpone building until the resources of the Church will fully warrant the commencement of such an undertaking.

In the meantime, it would be agreeable to me to accept the proposed sum of two hundred dollars additional salary, in place of a house, until a suitable and permanent parsonage house can be built or procured; provided I may be allowed to retain the house I now live in, at a fair *rent*, until some other can be obtained that I should on the whole prefer. At present I know of no eligible house, at a convenient distance from the Church, to be rented.

Thus, Gentlemen, I have, at your request, stated to you with candor, what has appeared to me would be the best for the welfare of the Church, under the circumstances in which we are at present placed. Should you, however, according to the wisdom given you, think of any plan more beneficial for all parties concerned, it will afford me pleasure to confer with you on the subject.

I remain, Gentlemen, very sincerely and respectfully

yours,

Newport, June 23, 1828.

S. WHEATON.

Voted: that a committee of three, Messrs. Bull, Potter and Tower, be appointed to repair the parsonage.

The expense attending the repairs appears to have amounted to \$568.59.

April 1, 1829. The Senior Warden was requested to direct the Sexton to take the keys of the Church home with him, and not to deliver them to any one except the Rector, Wardens, Vestrymen and Organist; and the Organist was directed not to deliver the keys of the organ to any one except a member of the Vestry.

April 20, 1829. The annual tax was fixed by the Corporation, at \$5.00 on pews on the lower floor, and the gallery pews were assessed \$1.00.

May 7, 1829. Voted: that the sum of \$192.88 received from the sale of the Banister lot, belonging to the Poor of the Church, be loaned to the Society; they paying the interest thereon annually until the amount is reimbursed by them.

March 3, 1830. Voted: that Messrs. Potter and John G. Whitehorne be a committee to appraise the pews belonging to the Church, and sell those they think proper to dispose of at auction, or otherwise.

March 22, 1830. Voted: that Captain Robinson Potter be authorized to call on the executors of Mr. [Richard] Harrison and ascertain if they mean to pay the yearly interest, as it becomes due, to Trinity Church—if not, to get the opinion of a lawyer. Edward Brinley, the Senior Warden, wrote to Captain Potter, as follows:

Newport, April 14, 1830.

Robinson Potter, Esq.,

Dear Sir:

I received your letter of the 7th inst., referring to the Harrison lease, the day before our annual congregational meeting, on Easter Monday. I considered it my duty to lay it

before the Congregation, by whom (after some conversation on the subject) it was referred to the Vestry. Mr. Hunter was present at Church, and he was invited to meet the Vestry the next evening, to assist with his professional advice. It seems to be the general idea that nothing can be done before we get Mr. Slosson's opinion, which will influence, and perhaps determine, all future measures. We are, however, not without our own suggestions on this subject, and the Church, upon the advice they have taken, deem it their duty:

1. To demand such a payment as would make up the interest on the agreed value of the land—that is, \$3,000 principal, \$180 interest. The Harrisons have let the land for \$60. If by a new contract we rescind the lease and take back the land (for there is no obligation to re-enter) the payment to the Church ought to be \$2,000.

2. As to the difficulty of collecting the rents after the division and distribution of Mr. Harrison's estate, we foresee no difficulty that cannot be prevented by seasonable measures.

3. Our true remedy would be, to bring a suit in chancery against the heirs, executors, &c., praying an injunction against any final distributions, until out of the confessed assets a fund was set apart for the regular payment of this rent; and this application to chancery would be sustained, not only by the future obstructions to our legal claim with which we are threatened by the heirs, but by a serious obstruction to a prompt and entire legal remedy already imposed by their ancestor, viz: a subletting for a considerable unexpired term.

But our inclination at present is, to do nothing without Mr. Slosson's opinion, and whether that is for or against us the Vestry mean, in their duty as trustees of the Church, to do nothing that ought to be deemed improper or illiberal to the heirs, &c., of Mr. Harrison.

Hoping that our meaning cannot be misunderstood, and in the name of the Vestry, thanking you for your attention and services.

I remain respectfully your Obt. Sv't,

EDWARD BRINLEY,

Senior Warden of Trinity Church.

June 2, 1830. Captain Potter was requested to write again to Mr. Slosson, New York, requesting his opinion on the business between Trinity Church and Mr. Harrison's executors.

Moved: that S. A. Robinson and William Littlefield be a committee to see that the steeple is put in a perfectly safe condition.

June 16, 1830. It was reported to the Vestry that an opinion from Mr. Slosson, as above called for, had been received: whereupon it was Voted: that Messrs. Robinson Potter and Edward Brinley be a committee to correspond with Mr. William H. Harrison, of New York, on the subject of the lease of the Kay estate.

No copy of Mr. Slosson's letter has been preserved: but the following letter [an unsigned copy] was sent to Mr. Harrison by the Committee.

Newport, June 21, 1830.

William H. Harrison, Esq.,

Dear Sir:

At a late Vestry meeting of the Minister, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, Captain R. Potter met and reported a conversation he had with you at two separate times, in March and April last, respecting the Kay Estate, which was leased to your Hon'd. Father. He also states that you mentioned something on the subject of a compromise with the Church, but that you should not be prepared to make any until you had a reply to a letter that you had written to Newport, but which we presume is received ere this. As the Minister, Wardens and Vestry are the only Trustees to the Kay donation, and desirous of doing their duty *towards the Church*, and as they have always received punctual payments and good feeling from your late father, which they hope may continue with his heirs, and presuming that it must be the wish of those heirs to close the estate, are perfectly willing to receive any proposition for an amicable arrangement whereby the Poor of the Church cannot be injured; and as the time is approaching when the next half

yearly rent will be due: for our future government will you have the goodness to state your proposition of amicable arrangement, or say if the half-yearly rent will be duly honored, as heretofore, when due. An early reply will oblige

Yours Respectfully,

An application having been made by the Town Committee, for the use of the Church on the Fourth of July, it was unanimously voted, that it be not expedient to grant it.

June 28, 1830. The Vestry received the following letter from the Town's Committee, which was read and received:

Newport, June 25, 1830.

Rev. S. Wheaton,

Dear Sir:

It has been intimated to the Committee of Arrangements, from respectable authority, that under the existing difficulty in obtaining a church, for the usual ceremonies of the approaching anniversary, the Vestry would probably recede from their vote, if a second application should be made by the Committee. With a view to ascertain the truth of this suggestion, and to gratify the wishes of Dr. Moore on this subject, [the orator of the day] I have taken the liberty to address you this note in behalf of the Committee, and to request that a meeting of the Vestry may be called as early as convenient, if consistent with the usual proceedings of that body. I will take the liberty at the same time to suggest, that it would meet the views of the Committee, if the Vestry would decide on the application tomorrow.

Your Obt. Servant,

CHRIS. E. ROBBINS.

Mr. J. G. Whitehorne having receded from the vote respecting the same subject, passed at the last meeting: the business was opened, and after a long discussion, the following resolution was passed: yeas 6, noes 5.

Whereas, at the last meeting of the Vestry, on application

being made by the Committee of the Town, for the use of Trinity Church on Independence [Day] it was considered inexpedient to grant it; and whereas, further application is made by said Committee, they not being able to obtain any other house therefore:

Resolved, that the vote of the last Vestry, refusing the same be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

On motion it was Voted: that the usual ceremonies of Independence may be performed in Trinity Church, and further, that the Committee compensate Mr. Springer [the Sexton] for cleaning the Church.¹²

July 5, 1830. Special Meeting of the Vestry: the following action was taken. No copy has been preserved of the letter referred to.

“Whereas: on reading a letter from William H. Harrison, of New York, in behalf of the executors of Richard Harrison, Esq., of N. Y., deceased, to a Committee of the Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport, offering to said Church the sum of \$1,200, and a surrender of the lease of the Kay Estate, for a full release of all claims against them and the heirs: the lease to be taken back by the Church subject to any existing agreement with the present occupant of the land, therefore, on motion made and seconded:

Resolved: that the proposition of Mr. Harrison's executors be, and the same is hereby accepted.

¹² THE Ceremonies in the Church, on the Fourth of July, were opened with prayers by the Rector, Rev. Salmon Wheaton; the Declaration of Independence was read by George W. Robbins, son of the late Asher Robbins, and the oration was delivered by Alexander Pope Moore, M. D. Dr. Moore had resided and practiced in Newport about ten years before his death, of smallpox, in 1836. November 7, 1831, he married Mary Easton, daughter of Nicholas Easton. At one time she was the organist of the Church. Dr. Moore was one of the original movers for the organization of Zion Church, February 21, 1833.

Voted: that Messrs. Robinson Potter and Edward Brinley be authorized to complete the settlement of the business with the executors of the said Harrison, deceased."

September 1, 1830. Meeting of the Vestry.

Robinson Potter, one of the Committee to settle with the executors to the estate of Richard Harrison, Esq., of New York, deceased, reported verbally, that the said Committee had received \$1,200, in consideration of the heirs of said Harrison's estate, being forever hereafter released from paying rent on the Kay Estate, and giving the executors a release—the Church re-entering on the premises—as will more fully appear by referring to the Town and Church records.

It is also ordered that the Committee pay over to the Treasurer of said Church, the money now in their hands.

Voted: that Levi Tower be our Secretary, during the absence of the present one, Mr. Joseph Metcalf Brown, and that he be authorized to receive the books and papers from said Mr. Brown.

January 7, 1831. Voted: that the Wardens be authorized to hire from the bank, a sum not exceeding \$350, to pay for the repairs on the steeple.

April 4, 1831. Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Present, the Rector and 18 Corporators.

The following officers were elected:

Edward Brinley, *Senior Warden*.

Stephen H. Cahoone, Jr., *Junior Warden*.

John G. Whitehorne, Stephen T. Northam, Thomas W. Brown, Stephen A. Robinson, Isaiah Crooker, Samuel Whitehorne, Robinson Potter, Levi Tower, William Littlefield, John H. Easton, and S. Fowler Gardner, *Vestrymen*.

Joshua Sayre, *Treasurer*.

Archibald Munro, *Secretary*.

John Springer, *Sexton*, with a salary of \$50.

Voted: that Miss Mary Easton, and Miss Maria Burdick, be organists, with a salary of \$50 each.

Voted: that Stephen T. Northam, Charles Collins, Edward Brinley and Samuel Whitehorne, be delegates to attend the State Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Voted: that the tax on the lower floor be \$5 and on the gallery pews \$1 with the interest on those belonging to the Corporation added, according to their valuation.

April 25, 1831. Voted: that the Rev. Mr. Wheaton, or the officiating Minister, in future, announce funerals, as may be required by friends and relatives.

[It had long been the custom for the Sexton to announce funerals from the organ loft, as the congregation were retiring, after service. He, none to well versed in letters to read fluently but indifferent written notices placed in his hands, made frequent mistakes, some of a ludicrous nature. What gave rise to the above action of the Vestry, was the announcement of the funeral of the wife of William Miller on the following Tuesday. Miller, who was a bachelor, usually had a seat in the organ loft, and was seated close by the Sexton when he made the above announcement. It created a smile, particularly as it was known that Miller had a tender feeling of regard for all who entered the marriage state. If he had abstained from marrying himself, he encouraged others to do otherwise; and for years he had been in the habit to present to every bride, whether he knew her personally or not, a white ash pudding stick of his own make: the handle in the form of a fish's head; the eyes, deep scores on each side, to designate the gills, and the mouth being clearly defined in red. It is more than probable that specimens of these pudding sticks may still be found in Newport.]

August 3, 1831. Voted: that Stephen T. Northam, Esq., Hon. William Hunter and George Irish, Esq., be appointed

delegates to attend the Diocesan Convention of the Eastern Diocese, to be holden at Salem, Mass., on the 28th inst.

October 5, 1831. Application having been made to Mr. Edward Brinley, for the purchase of the Kay estate, it was

Resolved: that Mr. Edward Brinley say to Mr. Nathaniel Emery [Amory¹³] the person making the application, that he can have the same by giving the price of \$300 per acre.

Rev. Mr. Wheaton gave us a partial exposé of the doings of the Convention, at Salem, and the Vestry separated.

November 2, 1831. Voted: that any occupant of a pew, from and after Easter next, who shall be in arrears for pew tax for one year, shall be liable to have his, her, or their pew advertised and sold for the same.

Voted: that the Senior Warden be authorized to offer to Miss Burdick additional pay, at the rate of \$20 a year (say for six months) for playing the organ in the absence of Miss Easton, who has resigned.

January 4, 1832. Voted: that the thanks of this Vestry be presented to Miss Angelica Gardner, for her benevolent donation of \$75.00, and that the Secretary write her accordingly.

To Miss Gardner:

I am directed by the Minister, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, to offer their thanks and acknowledgments for your benevolent and liberal donation, which has been the means of their contributing many more comforts to the indigent at this inclement season: and allow me to add an assurance of my individual respect.

LEVI TOWER,

Newport, January 18, 1832.

Secretary of the Vestry.

¹³ NATHANIEL AMORY was born in 1777. He married Mary Preble, daughter of Eben Preble, a niece of Commodore Preble. He was appointed Navy Agent at Pensacola by President John Quincy Adams. In the latter years of his life he came to Newport, built a cottage and lived here. He died in Boston in 1845.

February 8, 1832. Voted: that the Bible Class and Sunday School have the use of the Church School House, and that they have liberty to make such alterations and improvements as they may think necessary for their convenience—the Church to be at no expense for the same.

April 4, 1832. Voted: that a committee of three, Edward Brinley, John G. Whitehorne and William Littlefield, take into consideration the state of our funds, devise ways and means to meet the current expenses for the coming year, and make report on Easter Monday.

April 23, 1832. Annual Meeting on Easter Monday. Present, the Rector and 28 Corporators. The following officers were elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Stephen H. Cahoone, Jr., *Junior Warden*.

John G. Whitehorne, Samuel Whitehorne, Thomas W. Brown, Stephen A. Robinson, Isaiah Crooker, Stephen T. Northam, Robinson Potter, Levi Tower, William Littlefield, John H. Easton, and Edward Brinley, *Vestrymen*.

Levi Tower, *Secretary*.

Henry Potter, *Treasurer*.

Voted: that the appointment of an Organist be indefinitely postponed.

Voted: that the report of the Committee appointed by the Vestry, be received. [There is no record and no copy of this report.]

Voted: that the tax on the pews on the lower floor be \$7, and that on the gallery pews \$2.

July 12, 1832. Voted: that Robinson Potter be a committee to confer with any applicant who may appear for the lease of the Kay estate.

Voted: that the Rev. Mr. Wheaton on Sunday next notify the congregation that there will be a meeting of the Corporation

of this Church on Thursday next, the 19th inst., for the purpose of employing an Organist for the remainder of the year; and that George C. Mason, Senior Warden, in the meantime call on some one skilled in music to play the same, and report to the Corporation.

Voted: that the vote passed at Easter, "that there be no Organist for the year ensuing," be, and the same is, hereby repealed.

Voted: that the Senior Warden engage an organist for the residue of the year, at a salary not exceeding \$100 per annum.

Voted: that there be a contribution for the three months next ensuing.

Voted: that the Rev. Mr. Wheaton give notice to the Congregation, on Sunday morning next, there will be a contribution immediately after Divine Service, and so continue every Sabbath morning, till otherwise ordered.

July 26, 1832. At a meeting of the Corporation specially called, Voted: that so much of the doings of the Corporation at their last meeting as authorized a weekly contribution, be repealed.

The following was the call for the meeting:

The undersigned, members of the Corporation of Trinity Church, respectfully request the Rector of said Church, to call a meeting of the Corporation, on Thursday next, to take into consideration the propriety of repealing the vote passed the 19th inst. relating to weekly contributions.

Newport, July 20, 1832.

S. T. NORTHAM.

WM. NORRIS.¹⁴

¹⁴ CAPTAIN WILLIAM NORRIS was a highly respected sea captain, and was never in want of a vessel. From Newport he sailed for many years, chiefly in the employ of Stephen T. Northam, in the brig "John." He was a son of Captain John Norris, and his mother was a member of the Freebody family. He was an only son, and married Mary H. Centre, daughter of James Centre, and grand-daughter of Martin Howard: a name that has a recognized place in the history of Rhode Island.

D. MELVILLE.¹⁵

DUTEE J. PEARCE.

ROBINSON POTTER.

RICHARD K. RANDOLPH.

CHARLES COLLINS.

JACOB SMITH.

MOSES NORMAN.

JOHN P. MANN.¹⁶

Captain Norris continued in the merchant service until 1838, when he received a commission as a lieutenant in the United States Revenue Service; a position for which he was well fitted. He died on board the U. S. Revenue schooner "Van Buren," on her way from Charleston, S. C., to Key West, June 10, 1846, aged 58 years. Mrs. Norris died February 2, 1843; and the last of his four sisters died on Christmas Day, 1878, at the age of 89 years.

Captain Norris had a remarkable experience about the year 1823, when his vessel was taken by a pirate, who prepared at once to make way with all on board—captain, crew and passengers—and probably would have done so had not the captain of the rover, after driving all on board down into the hold, Captain Norris excepted, and securing the hatches, discovered a Freemason's apron on the top of Captain Norris' trunk. With it in hand, he went on deck, and having satisfied himself that the Captain was a Mason, he being of the same fraternity, he at once changed his bearing and promised to spare all their lives. This promise he kept, and after robbing the vessel of everything he wanted, left the vessel. There was then no one on deck but Captain Norris, and the battens were still on the hatches. With the aid of a crowbar he managed to uncover the hatches and release his people, more dead than alive from fear and want of air. The Masonic apron, which had been painted and presented to Captain Norris by Miss Eliza Lawton, of Newport, is now in the possession of his eldest son, Mr. William Norris of San Francisco.

¹⁵ DAVID MELVILLE had an active, restless mind, that kept him always busy without adding materially to his gains. He is entitled to the credit of having first used illuminating gas in America. This was in 1805-6. Gas for this purpose was first used in England, in 1792. Mr. Melville patented his process in 1810, and in 1812 lighted his own house, and Pelham street from Thames street to Spring street, with gas. In 1816 he made a contract with the United States to light Beaver Tail lighthouse in the same manner, which was done successfully for a year; though not at a cost that warranted its further introduction.

¹⁶ JOHN PRESTON MANN, M. D., was a resident of Newport, and died here

October 3, 1832. Voted: that the Wardens examine the chamber floor [the open space between the ceiling and the roof, properly the attic] of the Church, and make some calculation as to the probable expense of carrying the stove pipe out through the roof of the Church: that the Wardens purchase two cords of wood, and that they cause the windows of the Church to be caulked.

Voted: that Rev. Mr. Wheaton receive from the funds a sum not exceeding \$25 to defray his expenses to New York, to attend a General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

January 2, 1833. Voted: that Robinson Potter be a Committee to lease the Kay or Harrison estate, provided the sum of \$3,300 can be obtained for the same.

Voted: that the Senior Warden pay Mr. Wheaton \$9.14, being amount of postage paid by him during the three years past.

March 22, 1833. It having been represented to this Vestry, specially convened, by Samuel Whitehorne, that Mr. George Engs wished to purchase a lease of the Kay or Harrison estate, whereupon it was

Voted: that Stephen T. Northam and Samuel Whitehorne be a Committee to bargain or lease the said Kay or Harrison estate; the price of which to be not less than \$3,300 cash or approved credit.

[The Kay house had long before gone to ruin, and nothing remained but the land. The terms offered by Mr. Engs were

in 1837. He was the son of Dr. Bezaleel Mann, of North Attleborough, Mass., and a graduate of Rhode Island College. He studied medicine, but did not practice. His first wife was Mehitible Clarke, daughter of Joseph Clarke, General Treasurer of the Colony and State from 1761 to 1792, to whom he was married in 1782. She died July 23, 1803, and in June, 1806, he married Mrs. Ann Robinson, widow of William R. Robinson, of Narragansett, who brought him a handsome property. Mrs. Mann, the daughter of George Scott and granddaughter of Stephen Ayrault, was born in 1764, and died October 10, 1841.

accepted and it was leased to him for 999 years. On it he built the house southeast of the Jewish Cemetery, and now the property of Eugene Hartmann.]

April 8, 1833. Annual Meeting of the Corporation, the Rector and 17 Corporators being present.

The following officers were elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Stephen H. Cahoone, Jr., *Junior Warden*.

Edward Brinley, Stephen T. Northam, Robinson Potter, Thomas W. Brown, Levi Tower, Stephen A. Robinson, William Littlefield, Isaiah Crooker, John H. Easton, S. Fowler Gardner, William E. Evans,¹⁷ *Vestrymen*.

Benjamin Finch, *Secretary*.

Stephen A. Robinson, *Treasurer*.

Richard Swan, Jr., *Organist*. Salary \$100 a year.

John Springer, *Sexton*. Salary \$50 with \$10 for extra services.

A tax of \$7 was assessed on the lower floor, and \$2 in the gallery.

Stephen T. Northam, Charles Collins and William Hunter were appointed delegates to the State Convention.

June 5, 1833. Voted: that the Senior Warden notify the Sexton, that he must be more punctual in opening the Church, and lighting and trimming the lamps. In case he is not, they will employ some person for that purpose, and the expense incurred by his neglect of duty will be deducted from his annual salary.

June 18, 1833. The Rector stated to the Vestry, that the Town Committee of Arrangements for the ensuing Fourth of July, had made application for the use of the Church on that day.

¹⁷ THE name should be William Mathew Evans. He came from Philadelphia, purchased the Caleb Gardner estate, corner of Spring and John streets, of William C. Gardner, June 4, 1827, intending to make his home here; but becoming restless, he disposed of his property and removed from Newport.

Voted: that the Town Committee be informed that their request for the use of the Church edifice is not granted. The vote stood as follows—Ayes: Stephen A. Robinson, William M. Evans and William Littlefield; Noes: Robinson Potter, John H. Easton, Stephen T. Northam and Edward Brinley. The Secretary did not vote.

[Stephen A. Robinson was at the time Colonel of the Newport Artillery Company, and would naturally wish to have his command seated where they would appear to the best advantage.]

July 10, 1833. Stephen T. Northam stated to the Vestry that at the late Convention, held at Wickford, R. I., there was an assessment made on the different churches, for printing the Journal of Proceedings, and the amount assessed on this Church was \$10, which he had paid and asked to have the same refunded.

Whereupon the proceedings of the Convention were warmly animated upon by Robinson Potter and Isaiah Crooker, Jr., condemning the proceedings, inasmuch as they had shown a great want of respect to our Rector, in leaving him out and placing other men in offices held by him, without showing or offering any reason for so doing.

On motion to refund to Stephen T. Northam the \$10:

Voted: that it be not allowed, and that the printed Journals sent to the Rector be not received.

August 15, 1833. The Senior Warden was authorized to have the sidewalk in the rear of the Church edifice laid as soon as all the walks from Pelham street to the Church are laid.

Voted: that the vote passed on the 10th of July, last, not to refund Stephen T. Northam \$10 be and is repealed.

Voted: that Stephen T. Northam be refunded \$10 paid by him at the late Convention held at Wickford, R. I., being the

proportional tax assessed against this Church to defray the expense of printing the Journal of Proceedings.

October 3, 1833. Voted: that no pew be leased for a less term than six months; the rate of rent to be the interest [six per cent. per annum] on the valuation, and the taxes.

November 6, 1833. On motion of Edward Brinley to ornament the Church-yard with trees:

Voted: that the Wardens be authorized to purchase and have set out as many and such kinds [of trees] as they may esteem best.

[The trees so planted in that rich soil grew apace, and spread out so wide as in time to become objectionable, in that they disturbed the graves and monuments. They also became a source of complaint from the owners of houses on the north side of Church street, made damp by the mass of foliage that hung over them. And when it was decided to put around the grounds the iron fence now there, it was found that the trunks of the trees had so pushed across the line as to make any attempt in that direction futile until they were removed. One tree alone was left standing—the elm still seen on the west of the yard and in open ground. The trees had been standing less than forty years when Tuckerman wrote of their overthrow:

“Faith's pioneers and Freedom's martyrs slept
Beneath their shade; and under their old boughs
The wise and brave of generations past
Walked every Sabbath to the house of God.”]

January 6, 1834. Voted: that the payment of the assessment, made against this Church, to increase the Bishop's salary, at the late Diocesan Convention, held at Boston, be postponed to Easter Monday.

CHAPTER II.

1834-1839.

March 31, 1834. Annual Meeting of the Corporation: present the Rector and 27 Corporators.

The following officers were elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Stephen H. Cahoon, *Junior Warden*.

Edward Brinley, Stephen T. Northam, Robinson Potter, Thomas W. Brown, Levi Tower, Stephen A. Robinson, William Littlefield, Isaiah Crooker, Jr., John H. Easton, Samuel F. Gardner, William M. Evans, *Vestrymen*.

Stephen A. Robinson, *Treasurer*.

Benjamin Finch, *Secretary*.

John Springer, *Sexton*. Salary \$60.

Richard Swan, Jr., *Organist*. Salary \$100.

William Hunter, Edward Brinley, William C. Gibbs and Robert Johnston were appointed delegates to the State and Diocesan Convention.

Voted: The tax assessed against this Church by the Diocesan Convention, held at Boston last year, for the increase of the Bishop's salary, and referred to this meeting by the Vestry, be recommitted to them, with power to pay the same; provided the churches generally have complied with the aforesaid requisition.

April 11, 1834. Special Meeting of the Vestry.

Voted: that a committee be appointed to have the sidewalk in the rear of the Church edifice laid with flag stones, with a curb-stone next to the street.

Voted: that the Wardens be authorized to reduce the valuation of the small pews next to the pulpit, agreeably to their discretion.

Voted: That the Junior Warden be authorized to advertise and sell at public auction, pew No. 19, in arrears for taxes.

Whereas: the Convention of the Eastern Diocese, held at Boston, September 26, 1833, assessed a tax on this Church, of \$18.48, as its proportion of tax for an additional salary of the Bishop, of \$600, it was:

Voted: that this Vestry does not recognize the right of the Convention to assess a tax on the individual churches, for this or any other purpose.

Voted: that the sum of \$20 be appropriated to the Bishop, as a remuneration for his services from this Church, and that the Rector be requested to forward the same.

May 5, 1834. Voted: that the Church edifice be painted, inside and out, and the walls whitewashed; and that Robinson Potter, Stephen A. Robinson, and George C. Mason be a committee to carry the above vote into effect.

Voted: that the Wardens be authorized to hire money, to meet the expense of laying the sidewalk in the rear of the Church edifice.

A letter of resignation was received from Stephen T. Northam; the Vestry being of the opinion that it should be submitted to the Corporation for their consideration, directed the Secretary to inform him that they would lay it before the first Corporation meeting that shall be convened.

No further mention is made of the above letter, and there is no record of it; but the following is a copy of it:

Newport, May 3d, 1834.

To the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church:

Gentlemen:

I regret that it was not in my power to have attended the meeting on Easter Monday last: as I should, *if there*, been able to explain away many accusations and transactions that have taken place in the course of the last year, and perhaps prevented further misapprehensions that may be made against me in regard to the affairs of *Trinity Church*, and my attention to the building of *Zion Church*. My father, myself, and all my children were born in *Trinity Church*, and of course that place was always considered my home.

In the spring of 1833 it was contemplated to build a new Church in this town, and believing the Episcopal Doctrine *correct*, and that another Church could be *supported*, I readily agreed to lend my public aid in furthering the cause, and to assist in building *Zion Church*, presuming that it would have a tendency to promote the interest of the Church at large, and to call in many respectable families that appeared to have no settled homes. *Those were my views*, and my best wishes have in part been realized.

It was my intention, as Mr. Wheaton can state, in our first conversation on that subject, for me [not] to leave *Trinity Church*, but to have a pew in each, that my family might attend either; believing that it is but one Church, *although two houses*.

But my motive has been misconstrued and a few of the congregation, not the members of *Trinity Church*, have waged war against me for my good intentions, and have threatened to turn me out of the Church—at least, from holding any office under that government.

For that purpose they met on Easter Monday, with a full expectation of carrying their point, and there met with that defeat that improper motives should always experience. To my friends I feel grateful for their exertions. Of my opponents I ask no favors, being confident that the good of the Church was not their motive.

Above thirty years I have held an office in that Church, either Vestryman or Warden, and the most of the time a delegate to

the different Conventions: in each capacity I have endeavored to do my duty, and if I have failed in either, it was from error of judgment and not from intention.

But as my best motives have been misconstrued and misrepresented by some of the Vestry, and as there was an attempt made on Easter Monday, to prevent my re-election as a *Vestryman*, I have thought it most advisable to resign the office obtained through my friends, and hereby resign the same; with the hope that some person may be appointed without opposition, and one that will do honor to the Church, create peace and harmony in the Vestry, and will assist in promoting the prosperity of the Church, which will ever be dear to the feelings of

Yours Respectfully,

S. T. NORTHAM.¹⁸

[The above is the first mention of Zion Church in the records, and the disturbed state of Trinity Church, growing out of the seceding of a portion of the congregation; and it is a credit to those who still retained the direction of the Parish, that they refrained, as a body, from any expression of dissatisfaction at the course of events. While making this statement, it is due to the reader that he should know something of the state of affairs at the period to which the "ANNALS" have been brought down.

The Church was in an unpromising condition. Probably at no period in its history had it reached so low an ebb. There was a lack of vitality in the town that unquestionably acted upon the Church, and other religious bodies: the trade and commerce of the port had gradually fallen away; the whaleships that were fitted out here had been steadily reduced in number,

¹⁸ CAPTAIN STEPHEN T. NORTHAM was born in Swansea, Mass. When he retired from the sea he entered into business in Newport, as a shipping merchant, and he built and owned sailing vessels and steamboats. He married Mary Langley. When Zion Church was projected he took a prominent part in the organization of the parish, and retained his interest in it during the rest of his days. He died March 13, 1856, aged 88 years.

efforts to encourage manufactures were abortive, there was no material increase of population—in 1830 it numbered 8010, and in 1840 but 8333—and while the place showed no buoyancy when there were unusual signs of prosperity elsewhere, it felt keenly any contraction of the currency and the clogging of business channels in commercial centres. The deadness was depressing. Grass was growing in the thoroughfares, save in that portion of the roadbed in which vehicles traveled; one coach daily between Newport and Providence and one to Boston, sufficed for the land travel, and a few sloops on the river and Long Island Sound, and a small steamboat that touched here between New York and Providence, met the demand for carriage by water. The erection of a building was a novelty. The whole tax assessed in 1832 was \$6834. There were but 759 names on the tax list, and of this number but five persons were assessed a sum exceeding one hundred dollars.

Trinity Church, although enjoying the advantage accruing from a fund well invested, felt the general depression. To make the burden of taxation as light as possible, the pew rental on the lower floor had been reduced to five dollars. Even at this rate many pews were unoccupied and from time to time reverted to the Church, the owners unwilling or unable to hold them; while pews in the gallery were offered at ten dollars, subject to an annual tax of one dollar, with no buyers. The Rector's appeal from time to time, for an increase of salary, met with no favorable response, and, so far from being able to increase his stipend, the Treasurer was frequently forced to hire small sums, of one or two hundred dollars, to meet current expenses.

In the midst of this depression a schism showed itself in the Church, and in spite of the efforts to curb it, it ran its course, and exerted its influence for many years. The movers, believed the deadness in the Church could never be overcome, and that

the only way to insure greater life and activity in spiritual matters, was to break loose from old bonds—give up old associations and begin anew—and form a new organization. To this end a meeting was called, February 21, 1833, at the house of James Mumford. There were present James Mumford, Silas Ward, Alexander P. Moore, Henry Potter, Jacob Smith, Joshua Sayre, Charles H. Mumford, William Weeden, T. C. Dunn and Peleg Clarke; nearly all of whom had previously taken part in the affairs of Trinity Church. Henry Potter was elected Secretary; and the committee appointed to procure a place where services could be held—Messrs. Sayre, Potter and Charles H. Mumford—obtained the use of the Representatives' Chamber, in the State House. Rev. John West was called as Rector, and he retained the office till April, 1842. Means were subscribed, land was bought and a Church edifice was erected on the corner of Washington Square and Clarke Street. For years the Church struggled on under the depressing influence of debt; the successive Rectors sought in vain to remove this incubus, and retired, one after another, from the charge: till at last the Vestry, from sheer exhaustion, disposed of the property to the Roman Catholics, who organized a parish there, the outgrowth of St. Mary's, known as St. Joseph's.

The remnant of Zion Church, with commendable tenacity, held together, organized anew as St. George's, under the Rector they had called, Rev. Charles G. Gilliat, D. D., appealed successfully to their brother Episcopalians, and with the aid so obtained, and their own energies, erected a new Church edifice, which they are now enjoying, free of debt.

The Rector of Trinity Church, with the approval of the Vestry and with a Christian spirit that the reader cannot but admire, learning that the congregation of Zion Church, while waiting for the completion of their own Church edifice, had difficulty in finding a suitable place in which to hold service, invited them

through Rev. Mr. West, to worship with his own people in Trinity Church, as appears by the following correspondence.]

Rev. and Dear Sir:

The Vestry of Trinity Church, in consideration of the inconvenience to which the congregation of Zion Church are at present subjected, in consequence of having no suitable place for the celebration of public worship, have requested me to state to you, and through you to your congregation, that they would be much gratified if they would take seats in Trinity Church, until Zion Church edifice shall be ready to be occupied for divine service.

Should the invitation of our Vestry be acceded to, I shall expect you will do me the favor to take such part in the public services in Trinity Church as may suit the present state of your health, and be most convenient and agreeable to ourselves.

Very respectfully yours,

S. WHEATON.

Saturday morning, 12th April.

Rev. John West.

Monday morning, April 14th.

Rev. and Dear Sir:

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your note of Saturday, communicating the polite proposal of the Vestry of Trinity Church, for the accommodation of the congregation of Zion Church. In reply I am requested to communicate to them thro' you the assurance that the offer is regarded as manifesting a spirit of kindness and courtesy on the part of that respectable body, and altho' the Vestry of Zion Church do not feel at liberty to avail themselves of the proposed accommodation, they trust that their declining it will be attributed entirely to the unwillingness to have the slight and temporary inconvenience to which we are now subjected, removed at the expense of subjecting the congregation of Trinity Church to the more serious inconveniences, which will unavoidably attend the intermingling of another entire congregation with theirs during the same services.

I beg you also to receive my acknowledgment of your respectful proposal, in regard to my own participation in the public services, and to allow me to indulge the hope that nothing may hereafter intercept the interchange of those friendly offices between the two Churches which may comport with the spirit of Christianity, the dignity of the Episcopal Communion, and the true interest and prosperity of members of the same body.

Very Respectfully Yours,

JOHN WEST.

June 2, 1834. Voted: that the Wardens hire on the bank stock, in any of the banks in town, any sum that the Painting Committee may find it necessary to pay their laborers, and all necessary cash expenses.

Voted: that the Wardens be a committee to wait on the United Congregationalist Society, to obtain the use of their old meeting house for public worship, until ours is painted and ready to be occupied.

August 4, 1834. Voted: that the Senior Warden hire \$150 to defray contingent expenses.

Voted: that the Journals of the late State Convention, held at Providence, be received, and the \$5 assessed to pay for the same by the Convention, be paid.

Voted: that the Wardens be a committee to thank the United Congregational Society, in behalf of the Vestry and Congregation, for the polite loan and use of their Meeting House, during the time ours was repairing.

September 1, 1834. The committee to employ a male chorister verbally reported to the Vestry, that they had engaged John Goff, Jr., at \$60 per year, from the 20th of August to Easter Monday; he to furnish one female to assist him.

Voted: that the Painting Committee be authorized to pay Oscar F. Wentworth \$6 in addition to his contract for lettering, &c., the Ten Commandments, in consideration of his faithful performance of said contract, and not having made fair wages.

January 5, 1835. Voted: that the Wardens allow the ladies of the congregation to put up a stove in the Vestry Room, for the convenience of the Rector, provided it does not militate against the policy of insurance.

April 6, 1835. The Wardens and Stephen A. Robinson were a committee to make an exchange of pew now occupied by Doct. A. P. Moore with William V. Taylor¹⁹ for his, by his paying a fair difference; provided Dr. Moore is willing to give it up.

April 13, 1835. The Senior Warden having informed the Vestry that Mr. George Engs had given notice that he wished to pay off his note, it was

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to receive the same, and to pay over to the Senior Warden, so much as will pay off the debts against the Church, and to invest the balance, either in bank stock, or let it on satisfactory security.

April 20, 1835. Annual Meeting, Easter Monday.

Present: Rev. Salmon Wheaton, Rector; George C. Mason,

¹⁹ WILLIAM VIGNERON TAYLOR entered the United States Navy as a sailing master, received a lieutenant's commission for meritorious conduct at the battle of Lake Erie, and reached the rank of captain in 1841. He was placed on the retired list in 1855, and died February 11, 1858. The citizens of Newport, in Town Meeting in October, 1813, placed \$100 at the disposal of a committee, to procure some suitable present to mark their high appreciation of "his great exertions and meritorious conduct under Commodore Perry"; and they were to "assure him of their esteem and regard, and of the pleasure they have derived from the well-merited commendation bestowed upon him by the Commodore." There the matter ended, the committee never seeming to have found time to carry out their instructions.

The two sons of Captain Taylor entered the public service: one in the navy, and one in the army. His elder son, William Rogers Taylor, was commissioned as midshipman April 1, 1828, made Rear-Admiral January 19, 1871, retired November 7, 1873, and died February 11, 1888. Oliver H. P. Taylor, the younger son, was engaged in the desperate combat of To-kots-nine-me, on the Colville Trail, Utah, and was killed May 17, 1858, aged 33 years.

Senior Warden; Stephen H. Cahoone, *Junior Warden*, and the following Corporators:

John DeBlois, Benjamin Fry,²⁰ John Sterne, Isaiah Crooker, Jr., Henry Bull, Andrew A. Harwood, Henry Wood, Thomas R. Gardner, John Vars, Edward Stanhope, George Hall, William Norris, Marin P. Lomax, Joseph F. Havens, Benjamin Hazard, Robert Johnston, John H. Easton, Thomas W. Brown, David M. Coggeshall, Nicholas G. Boss, Joseph Bailey, Russell Coggeshall, William Littlefield, Richard K. Randolph, Alexander P. Moore, William M. Evans, Samuel F. Gardner, Thomas Bush, John W. Davis, William C. Gibbs, Robinson Potter, Stephen A. Robinson, William V. Taylor, Thomas Brinley, John G. Whitehorne and William Turner.

The following officers were elected:

Benjamin Finch, *Senior Warden*, in place of George C. Mason, resigned.

Stephen H. Cahoone, *Junior Warden*.

Robinson Potter, Thomas W. Brown, George C. Mason, Stephen A. Robinson, Isaiah Crooker, Jr., John H. Easton, William M. Evans, Robert Johnston, Nathaniel Amory, Andrew A. Harwood and Thomas Breese, *Vestrymen*.

Stephen A. Robinson, *Treasurer*.

George C. Mason, *Secretary*.

²⁰ BENJAMIN FRY, son of John Fry and Mary Tillinghast, his wife, was born March 10, 1755. He married Ann Bull, daughter of Joseph Bull, of Tiverton, April 28, 1800. He was colonel of the Newport Artillery from 1810 to 1815, and while in command of that company took possession of Fort Greene, under authority from the General Government, in July, 1814, and put it into order to meet an emergency. With his company he crossed over to Conanicut, in April, 1813, to aid in rescuing and saving the ship Whampoa, driven on shore on the west side of the Bay, and fired by the enemy. For want of boats he was unable to get over to the mainland. Captain Benjamin Pierce, of the Third Company of Militia, was more fortunate, and succeeded in putting out the fire and saving the cargo.

John Springer *Sexton*. Salary \$60.

Richard Swan, Jr., *Organist*. Salary \$100.

Delegates to the Convention: Stephen H. Cahoone, Robert Johnston, William M. Evans and Andrew A. Harwood.²¹

A letter from Richard Swan, Jr., was read, wherein he stated he wished it understood, that unless the organ be repaired, and the salary be as much as he could get elsewhere, he should not consider himself engaged any longer than three months from Easter.

The subject was referred to the Vestry, and it was recommended by Richard K. Randolph, in case it should become necessary to appoint a new organist, it be done by the Corporation.

Voted: that the tax on the lower floor be \$7, and \$2 for the gallery.

Voted: that \$234.75 be appropriated to pay for iron railing to the steps [on Frank street] and balance due for blinds. [This was the first time blinds were used on the Church windows.]

Voted: that all applications to the Rector, to take up collections in our congregation, be referred to the Vestry.

²¹ ANDREW A. HARWOOD belonged in Philadelphia. He entered the U. S. Navy in 1818 and held the rank of Rear Admiral when he retired in 1864. He resigned, when a lieutenant, but re-entered the service. He came to Newport, married Sarah Ann Wood, daughter of Captain Peleg Wood, November 10, 1828, and with his brother-in-law, Henry Wood, he went into the brewery business, in which they were not successful.

Rev. Francis Vinton, missionary of the Rhode Island Convocation, had organized the Church of the Ascension, at Wakefield, R. I. in 1839. At that time services were held in the State House, at Kingston, by Rev. Louis Lansen. When Mr. Lansen retired that year, the two stations were placed under the care of Mr. Vinton, and so remained until he was called to the Rectorship of St. Stephen's, Providence. That the services at Kingston might be continued, Lieutenant Harwood was licensed by the Bishop of the Diocese, as a lay reader; and he kept the people together until the Church, then building at Wakefield, was completed, when the two missions were merged into one. This was in 1840.

Voted: that the Circular received from the Committee, relating to the support of the Bishop, be received and adopted: and if the day therein designated, to take up the collection, be, in the opinion of the Rector, unfavorable, he may appoint another day, at his discretion.

Voted: that the thanks of this Corporation be presented to Mr. George C. Mason, for the able and faithful discharge of his duties as Senior Warden.

May 4, 1835. Voted: that Benjamin Finch, Thomas W. Brown and Stephen A. Robinson, be a committee to ascertain what amount can be raised by subscription for enlarging and repairing the organ.

July 6, 1835. Whereas, a letter from the Rev. Nathan B. Crocker, addressed to the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport, inviting them to join the Rhode Island Clerical Convocation Society, was received and read at the last meeting of the Vestry, and referred to the meeting now holden: and said letter being again read, after a respectful consideration of the same, it was

Voted: that this Vestry do not consider it at present expedient for this Church to co-operate with said Society.

Voted: that the Senior Warden be authorized to hire a sufficient sum to pay the salaries now due.

The Vestry deeming it inexpedient to enlarge the organ, Voted: that it be put in complete repair.

Voted: that the Junior Warden advertise the pews for sale, on which the taxes due thereon exceeds \$10.

August 14, 1835. Voted: that Richard Swan, Jr.'s, resignation as organist be received.

Voted: that George Taylor be the organist until next Easter, at a salary of \$125.

Voted: that the amount assessed upon this Church by the

State Convention, for providing an Assistant for the Bishop, in the year 1832, \$17.50, be not paid.

Whereas, this Corporation does not recognize the right of any Convention to tax this Church, and does not consider that it is bound at this, or any future, time, to pay a tax that may be assessed, but do now vote that the amount, \$12.50, assessed upon this Church by said Convention, for printing its journals, &c., be paid.

November 2, 1835. Voted: that the Senior Warden be authorized to hire a sufficient sum of money, to pay for the repairs of the organ, if there should not be money enough in the treasury.

Voted: that the payment of \$3.84 assessed upon this Church by the Diocesan Convention, in October, 1835, be referred to the Corporation.

January 4, 1836. Voted: that Stephen A. Robinson and George C. Mason be a committee to ascertain and report what alteration can be made in the South Gallery of the Church, to increase the accommodation of the colored part of the congregation.

Voted: that the thanks of the Vestry be tendered through the Senior Warden, to the ladies and gentlemen, who for the past four months, have assisted the Chorister in singing: and it is also voted: that the Senior Warden present [name not filled in] in the name of the Vestry with a Prayer Book.

Voted: that the Senior Warden be authorized to hire so much money as will be necessary to pay the bills against the Church.

February 1, 1836. Voted: that the Wardens be authorized to sell the pews now occupied by the colored part of the congregation, in the South Gallery of the Church, provided they can obtain \$10 for each pew.

April 4, 1836. Annual Meeting, Easter Monday: the Rector and 15 Corporators being present.

The Vestry elected were the same as last year, with the exception of Joseph G. Totten²² and Henry Wood, *Vestrymen*, in place of Nathaniel Amory and Thomas Breese, and Henry Bull, Jr., *Secretary*.

Delegates to the Convention: Stephen H. Cahoone, Robert Johnston, William M. Evans and Thomas W. Brown.

No change made in the pew tax.

Voted: that Henry Bull, Robinson Potter, Stephen H. Cahoone, Benjamin Finch and Thomas Breese, be a committee to examine into the pecuniary affairs of the Church, and to report thereon.

Voted: that hereafter the Annual Meeting of the Corporation be on Easter Monday, as heretofore, but at three o'clock in the afternoon.

June 9, 1836. Voted: that Benjamin Finch be a committee to make such alterations in the organ platform as he may deem requisite for the better accommodation of the chorister and singers.

July 5, 1836. Voted: that the Senior Warden be authorized to hire a sum of money sufficient to meet the present exigencies.

September 5, 1836. Voted: that the Senior Warden be au-

²² JOSEPH GILBERT TOTTEN was born in New Haven, August 23, 1788, was educated at West Point, rose to the highest grade in his profession in the course of his active life, and for 27 years was at the head of the Engineering Department of the United States. In April (21) 1864, he was brevetted Major General in the Army, for "long, faithful and eminent service," and died in Washington on the following day. The construction of Fort Adams was consigned to him in 1825, and here in Newport he resided with his family so long as his services were needed at this point. While here he took an interest in Trinity Church, and was made, as above, a member of the Vestry.

thorized to hire a sum of money sufficient to pay salaries as soon as the same may become due.

Voted: that Thomas Stacy [the chorister of the Church] and George Taylor [the organist] be allowed the use of the school house two evenings in each week during the winter, for the purpose of teaching music gratuitously among the children and others of our own congregation: provided that they engage to repair all damages, and to give proper notice to the children of the Sunday School, that they may remove their books.

Voted: that the Junior Warden be authorized to purchase the pew at auction belonging to Mrs. Naomi Langley, provided it does not sell for more than \$10.

March 27, 1837. Annual Meeting, Easter Monday. Present: the Rector and 14 members of the Corporation.

George Hall, William J. Taylor and Joshua Sayre were added to the Vestry, in place of Evans, Totten and Breese.

Mrs. Mary Moore was elected organist in place of George Taylor, resigned. Salary, \$150.

The Vestry were authorized to supply the Church with vocal music, at an expense of not more than one hundred dollars per annum.

Voted: that in case of the resignation of Stephen H. Cahoone, Junior Warden, before his term of office shall expire, the Vestry are empowered to fill the vacancy. [Mr. Cahoone was then contemplating a change of residence.]

August 8, 1837. Voted: that the Senior Warden be requested to hire a sufficient sum of money to pay outstanding bills and the Rector's salary.

September 2, 1837. Voted: that Miss Sarah Gibbs be permitted to erect a monument to the memory of her deceased father and mother, against the south side of the Church, directly opposite the monument on the north side. [Miss Gibbs did not avail herself of this privilege.]

Voted: that the Senior Warden be authorized to sell pew No. 18 for not less than \$25.

April 16, 1838. Annual Meeting, Easter Monday: the Rector and 24 members of the Corporation being present.

The following officers were elected:

Robert Johnston, *Senior Warden*.

Christopher G. Perry,^{22½} *Junior Warden*.

George C. Mason, Stephen A. Robinson, Isaiah Crooker, John Vars, Henry Wood, George Hall, A. A. Harwood, Benjamin Finch, Edward N. Cox,²³ Samuel Allen, Lloyd Minturn, *Vestrymen*.

^{22½} CHRISTOPHER GRANT PERRY, eldest son of Commodore Oliver H. Perry, born at Newport, April 2, 1812, and died in Philadelphia, April 7, 1854. He graduated at Brown University in 1830. His oration in the graduating exercises, coming from the youngest speaker of the day, awakened unusual interest. He was fitted for the Law, but not liking it, he went to India, intending to devote himself to mercantile pursuits. His health failing in that climate, he returned to America, studied medicine and received his diploma; but being unwilling to assume the responsibility that attended the profession, he went back to his original study, the Law, in which he acquired a reputation for thoroughness in his work. His attainments were solid, and his morals were of the highest. But for his shrinking from public life, Colonel Perry might have had any office in the gift of his fellow townsmen. For the last nine years of his life he was in command of the Newport Artillery, which company buried him with military honors.

Colonel Perry was married May 31, 1838, to Frances Sergeant, daughter of Hon. Thomas Sergeant, of Philadelphia. His widow and four children—two sons and two daughters—are living.

²³ EDWARD N. COX was a native of Maryland. In April, 1799, he entered the United States Navy as a midshipman, and was commissioned a lieutenant in 1807. He retired from the service, and again entered it in 1820, as purser, and died in Newport in August 1845, aged 64, having made it his place of residence. After his death Mrs. Cox continued to live with her sister, Mrs. Lawrence, widow of Captain James Lawrence, U. S. N., until her death. Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Lawrence were the daughters of Mr. Montaudevert, a French merchant who resided in New York. Mrs. Montaudevert died in Newport, February 17, 1851, aged 94. Mrs. Lawrence, who died in Newport in September, 1865, was laid by the side of her husband in Trinity Church yard, New York.

Henry Bull, Jr., *Treasurer and Secretary.*

Voted: that the Vestry be empowered to elect suitable persons to the offices of sexton, organist and chorister, for the ensuing year, and fix upon the amount of their salaries: it being understood that the same is not to exceed the amount paid last year for like services.

Voted: that the pew tax remain unchanged.

Voted: that a committee be chosen to solicit donations to assist in defraying the debts of the Church, and that the selection of the committee be referred to the Vestry.

April 20, 1838. Mrs. Mary Moore was elected *Organist*; salary \$130 per year.

Thomas Stacy, *Chorister*; salary \$70: it being understood that he is to furnish one female singer, and have the whole charge of the vocal music.

John Springer, *Sexton*, at \$60 per year.

May 8, 1838. Voted: that George C. Mason and the Senior Warden be a committee to dispose of the pews belonging to the Church to the best advantage.

Voted: that George C. Mason and Benjamin Finch be a committee to superintend the replacing of the Martin monument, in the Churchyard.

Voted: that the Treasurer be requested to call on George Engs for interest and fifty dollars of the principal of his note now in the Treasurer's hands.

June 29, 1838. It having been represented to this Vestry that measures were taken at the Convention of Rhode Island for the immediate separation of the Church in this State from the Eastern Diocese; and such a separation during the life of the present Bishop appearing to them neither expedient nor desirable:

Resolved: that this Vestry disapproves of the proceedings of the late Convention, so far as they relate to any division of the

Eastern Diocese at the present time, and earnestly request the Standing Committee to call a Special Convention, to meet at Providence, or some other central place, to reconsider the resolution passed at the late Convention for the separation of Rhode Island from the Eastern Diocese.

Resolved: that the Secretary of the Vestry transmit this vote to Benjamin Cowell, Esq., Secretary of the Standing Committee, to be laid before them at the adjourned meeting on the 3d day of July proximo.

Voted: that the Senior Warden, E. N. Cox, A. A. Harwood and George Hall be delegates to attend the Special Convention, with power to fill vacancies in the delegation.

Voted: that the expenses of the Rector, attending said Convention, be paid by the Church.

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to hire such an amount of money as may be necessary to pay the salaries and other incidental expenses, and that in future he be authorized to manage all the fiscal affairs of the Church.

October 16, 1838. Voted: that George Hall, E. N. Cox and C. G. Perry be a committee to solicit donations to defray the expense of purchasing and putting up stoves and pipes in the Church; and that George C. Mason and Benjamin Finch buy and put up the stoves and pipes.

January 1, 1839. Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to hire a sum of money sufficient to pay the outstanding bills.

Voted: that the Wardens be a committee to address a note to the Rector, to be read before the congregation, making a statement of the expense of putting up stoves and pipes, and asking their pecuniary aid in liquidating the bills for the same.

February —, 1839. The following communication, laid before the Vestry, was received and read:

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Union Church²⁴ and Society, held on the 7th of January last, it was unanimously voted: that the thanks of the Church and Society be tendered to the Vestry of Trinity Church for the donation of a stove.

In behalf of said Church and Society:

JOHN REMOND, Chairman of the Trustees.

To the Vestry of Trinity Church,
Newport, Feby. 5, 1839.

April 1, 1839. Annual Meeting of the Corporation: the Rector and 14 Corporators being present.

[Instead of the usual routine business the following action was taken.]

Voted: that a Committee be appointed to examine into the state of the finances, and to recommend to an adjourned meeting of the Corporation, to be held on the 29th inst. at 3 p. m., such measures as they think ought to be pursued for the future benefit of the Church.

Voted: that at all meetings of the above named committee, there must be fifteen members present, to constitute a quorum for business.

Voted: that the following named individuals compose the com-

²⁴ THE UNION CHURCH, now known as the Union Congregational Church, was on Division street, on the site of the present commodious building owned by the Society. The founder of the Society may be said to have been Newport Gardner, who was brought to Newport a slave, when a lad, in 1760, and returned to Africa, in 1825, as a missionary, where he died at Liberia within six months of his arrival. He was altogether a remarkable man. He acquired a knowledge of English without losing his hold on his native tongue; was fond of music, learned to read and write it easily, and became a successful teacher of singing. Rev. Dr. Hopkins took a great deal of interest in him, and encouraged his ambitious desire to go back to Africa, where he hoped to be instrumental in converting and educating the natives.

The present Pastor of the Society is the Rev. Mahlon Van Horne.

mittee, viz: Robert Johnston, George Irish, Christopher Fry,²⁵ Henry Bull, Thomas W. Brown, John Sterne, Robinson Potter, George Hall, Benjamin Finch, George C. Mason, Edward N. Cox, Christopher G. Perry, John W. Davis, Stephen A. Robinson, Joshua Sayre, Henry Wood, S. Fowler Gardner, Isaiah Crooker, Charles Collins, Stephen Deblois, Samuel Allen, Samuel Carr, John Vars, William C. Gibbs, Lloyd Minturn, Andrew A. Harwood, David Coggeshall, John Pitman, John Barker, Edward Stanhope, John N. Potter, William Norris, David Melville, Benjamin Fry, T. K. Gardiner, John W. Davis, Jr., David King, Fones Havens, John Dennis, Joseph Bailey, Moses Norman; Henry Bull, Jr., Secretary of the Committee.

[The above names comprised all the male Corporators at that time.]

Voted: that the present officers of the Church continue to hold their stations until the adjourned meeting of the Corporation.

[The reader cannot have failed to see that the Church, with all its prestige and venerable history, was in a bad way: that it was embarrassed for means to pay the salaries, small as they were, and current expenses (the latter brought down to a minimum); that frequent resort was had to loans, significant in amount, to meet demands that could only be provided for in this way after other efforts to pay such debts had been unsuccessful. This was irritating to persons whose means were already so restricted that they could hardly meet personal obligations. Abandoned pews were frequently offered for sale without buyers. The number of Corporators had been greatly reduced by the defection that had resulted in the organization of Zion

²⁵ CHRISTOPHER FRY was the son of John Fry and Mary Tillinghast, his wife, and the brother of Captain Benjamin Fry. He died in Newport, July 24, 1851, in his 95th year.

Church. The Rector, who had grown old in the service of the Church, had not for years asked for an advance on his small salary, knowing it would be of no avail; or even for needed repairs on the parsonage. Discouraged, he plodded on, hoping in vain that the cloud that had settled down on the Parish would pass over. Had the Church, in recognition of his long service, eased his burden by giving him an assistant, it would have been a move in the right direction; but the Corporation could only see that such a course would add to their embarrassment, as they supposed, and so they adopted measures, as will be seen by what follows, of a wholly different character.]

April 29, 1839. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation.

Voted: that Henry Bull be the Moderator of the meeting.

The committee appointed to examine the state of the finances, &c., made report, as follows, viz:

“That whereas most of the Religious Congregations in Rhode Island, in conformity to the principles and practice of the founders of the State, have adopted the plan of supporting their Pastors, in part or in whole, by annual contributions; and whereas, in the opinion of this Committee, the relations between the Pastor and his congregation are best maintained by their mutual dependence on each other; and whereas the Congregation of Trinity Church, like all other collective bodies of people, embraces those of various pecuniary means, it is therefore just and expedient that their common burdens should be so laid, as to allow such as are possessed of much, to contribute in some proportion to their worldly means, to that which is wanted by the whole association.

“Therefore the Committee recommend that for the future, the Corporation, as such, will make no further provision for the Rector or Minister of said Church, beyond the dividend to be annually received from what is called the Permanent Fund, together with the use of a certain lot of land, situated on the Hill, and heretofore assigned for the use and benefit of the Minister for the time being, containing about two acres.

"The aforesaid Permanent Fund consists of seventy-eight shares in the stock of the Rhode Island Union Bank, in Newport, fourteen shares in the Newport Bank, and ten shares in the Bank of Rhode Island. That all further provision for the support of the present, or any future Minister of Trinity Church, be by voluntary contributions, to be made by private persons in or out of said Congregation or Society.

"And whereas this Corporation are now considerably indebted, therefore the Committee recommend that, an order pass in the meeting of the Corporation, to sell or dispose of the parsonage house, and lot on which it stands, and the house occupied by the sexton and the lot on which it stands, and also so much of the School House lot as is not wanted as an appendage to said School House. The said houses to be disposed of between this time and the last of August, next, either at public or private sale, and the proceeds arising from said sales to be applied to the payment of the debts of the Corporation; and that the execution of the Resolution or Act of the Corporation for selling as aforesaid, be especially confided to and charged upon the Wardens and Vestry.

"Resolved: that the Committee recommend that a contribution be taken up once in each month, and the proceeds be appropriated to the incidental expenses of the Church and Corporation; and that the tax on the pews, on the lower floor of the Church, be reduced to six dollars for the present year.

"And it is further recommended, that the election of all officers of the Church, not appointed at the adjourned meeting to be held on the 29th of April, instant, be referred to the Wardens and Vestry, and that they appoint and fix the salaries of the same, provided the whole sum shall not exceed the amount paid the past year for like services.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

HENRY BULL, Chairman."

Said Report having been read, it was unanimously resolved that it be received.

On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously resolved

that said report be adopted, and that the same be an Act of this Corporation.

The following communication was received from the Rector.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church,
Gentlemen:

From the autumn of the year 1810, when by unanimous request, I assumed the pastoral charge of this Parish, until the spring of 1833, a period of more than twenty-two years, I had the satisfaction of seeing it prosperous and flourishing. Not a single family, who had once attached themselves to the Church, is remembered to have ever wholly left it; while it frequently received large and respectful accessions from other denominations of Christians. And in all the intermarriages that took place, with but few exceptions, both parties invariably attended Church. During that time, the Church was thoroughly repaired, as were also the Parsonage house, and the Sunday School house. And I was the humble means of establishing a Permanent Fund, of more than ten thousand dollars.

In the spring of 1833, when the Congregation had much increased in numbers, contrary to my judgment, extraordinary efforts were made to found a second Episcopal Church in Newport, which in the course of a year or two, drew from the old Church nearly thirty families, and a still larger number of Communicants. This was followed by the establishment of other new places of worship, which deprived the Congregation of about ten families more. And almost as many old Episcopal families have since removed from Newport, making in all nearly fifty families.

The loss of so many valuable members from the Congregation, has had the effect, not unforeseen by the Rector, to create uneasiness in the Church, and depress the energies of the people: though the pews formerly occupied by those who have since left have been generally taken; some families have returned, and the Congregation is still numerous—more so, it is believed, than when I first took charge of it. The Communion is known to be at least one-third larger.

Serious pecuniary difficulties have been likewise experienced

by the Corporation, in consequence of not receiving the usual bank dividends, for a number of years; and yet the funds of the Church are now more than double what they were when I became Rector.

Although I have now passed nearly thirty years of the best part of my life among you, exclusively devoted to the duties of my sacred office, and had once expected here to "finish my course," and that here "my flesh would rest in hope," I have, after much reflection, and prayer for the Divine guidance, deemed it advisable, under existing circumstances, to retire from my present situation; and I hereby signify my intention to resign the Rectorship of Trinity Church, on Easter Monday, in the year of our Lord, 1840; stipulating only for the continuance of my salary as it now is, the use of the Parsonage house, and all other privileges usually belonging to the Rector, until the next Easter; and leaving it to your liberal and generous feelings to make such further provision for the support of myself and family, as may be needed for our future respectability and comfort.

In adopting this measure I am gratified in knowing that I shall leave your Church in excellent repair, and well endowed, with a congregation large and fully able to sustain it; and that at the last celebration of the Lord's Supper, I witnessed the largest Communion ever recollected at the Easter festival. And most earnestly shall I ever pray for the continued harmony and prosperity of the Church.

With sentiments of esteem and regard, I am,
Gentlemen, Your affectionate Pastor,
S. WHEATON.

Newport, April 29, 1839.

The said communication having been read, the following resolution was unanimously passed by the Corporation:

Whereas this Corporation has this day received from the Rev. Dr. Salmon Wheaton, a communication giving notice of his resignation of the Rectorship of Trinity Church, prospectively, to take effect from and after Easter next, therefore:

Resolved: that the said communication be received, and accepted, and that the Wardens and Vestry, be, and they are hereby requested, to draw up and present to our Reverend Pastor, a suitable answer, expressive of the affection and regard entertained for, and justly due to the man who has so long and so faithfully presided over this Church and Congregation; assuring him that the respect, affection and best wishes of this Church and Congregation, towards him, remain unimpaired, and will follow him in his contemplated retirement.

[A search for a copy of the letter which, no doubt, the Vestry addressed to the Rector, in compliance with the above resolution, has not been successful.]

Resolved: that the Rev. Dr. Wheaton be requested, during the remainder of his Rectorship, to assist the Church and Congregation, in selecting a suitable candidate as his successor.

Resolved: that the aforesaid communication from the Rector, be recorded in the proceedings of this meeting: and as we are now without the personal attendance of our said Rector, the Secretary is hereby directed to furnish him with a copy of these resolutions.

The following officers were elected for the year ensuing:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Christopher G. Perry, *Junior Warden*.

Henry Bull, Edward N. Cox, Samuel F. Gardner, Isaiah Crooker, George Hall, Benjamin Finch, Henry Wood, John Sterne, Lloyd Minturn, John Vars, Joseph Bailey, *Vestrymen*.

John Sterne, *Treasurer*.

Benjamin A. Mason, *Secretary*.

Edward N. Cox and Christopher Fry, Delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

The tax on the gallery pews was fixed at \$2.

April 29, 1839. Voted by the Vestry: that Mrs. Mary Moore be continued as organist, with a salary of \$130 per annum; but in case no chorister is employed, and Mrs. Moore shall perform

the duties of organist and also lead in singing, her salary shall be at the rate of \$150 per annum.

Voted: that the Wardens and Mr. Benjamin Finch be a committee to superintend the stoves, and generally all that appertains to the warming of the Church; and also to cause the Church to be thoroughly cleaned, and to keep the same in good order.

Voted: that Henry Bull, George Hall, and Samuel F. Gardner, be a committee to procure a subscription for the purpose of paying the balance of the Rector's salary, after applying the dividends arising from the Permanent Fund, agreeably to the vote of the Corporation.

Voted: that Pew No. 28 be sold to John B. Atkinson for \$32.

Voted: that the Treasurer give bonds to this Corporation for \$500 with or without sureties.

[The following is a copy of the subscription paper referred to above.]

Whereas the Corporation of Trinity Church, at their annual meeting, voted: that the interest on the Permanent Fund be paid to the Rector, and did not make further provision for his support; and whereas said interest is not sufficient to pay his usual salary, therefore the subscribers do agree to pay the sums affixed to their names, to make up the deficiency.

Henry Bull,	\$20	Elizabeth C. Perry,	\$10
George Hall,	10	Margaret Mason, ²⁶	10
Samuel F. Gardner,	10	Sarah Bailey,	10
George C. Mason,	10	Samuel Allen,	10
Edward N. Cox,	10	Samuel Carr,	5
Benjamin Finch,	10	C. G. Perry,	5

²⁶ MRS. MARGARET MASON was the daughter of Christopher Champlin, and Margaret Grant, of Sueton and Temperance; born September 11, 1764, married to Dr. Benjamin Mason, November 8, 1788, and died February 5, 1841. Her accomplishments, grace and beauty brought her into much notice, and her name is pleasantly associated with many of the leading social events of her day.

continue to hold the same, as tenant, until Easter next, free of rent."

Persons wishing to purchase were to apply to the Senior Warden.

Whereas: after Easter next the Church will be without a Minister, unless previous to that time a clergyman shall be engaged to take the place of our respected Pastor, and it is therefore necessary that between now and said Easter, such clergymen as are willing to perform the service in said Church, should be invited to do so: it is therefore,

Voted: that whenever the Senior Warden knows of a clergyman who he thinks that the congregation would be pleased to hear, that he request the Rev. Dr. Wheaton to invite him to preach in said Church: and in case a clergyman shall, by invitation of the Minister, or Senior Warden, come from another place, to perform services in this Church, it is also Voted: that the Senior Warden be, and he is hereby, authorized to draw on the Treasurer for such sum as shall be necessary to pay the charges and expenses of said clergyman: and that Rev. Dr. Wheaton is respectfully requested to aid, as much as is in his power, the Senior Warden in the performance of the duty hereby imposed upon him; and it is further Voted: that the Secretary furnish the Rev. Dr. Wheaton with a copy of this vote.

Voted: that the expenses of the Rev. Dr. Wheaton to the State Convention be paid by this Corporation.

September 3, 1839. The committee appointed to sell the Parsonage and Sexton's house reported: that the Sexton's house had been sold at public auction, to John Springer [the Sexton] for \$300 cash; and that the Parsonage had been sold at public auction, to Henry Oman, for \$1,900, and that the conditions of the sale of the Parsonage were as follows, viz.: one quarter of the purchase money to be paid on the delivery of the deed, one

quarter to be secured by an approved endorsed note, payable in nine months, with interest, and for the remaining half, a note to be given, payable in five years, with interest from day of sale, interest payable semi-annually, said last mentioned note to be secured by a mortgage on the premises sold; and the committee further report, that it was also a condition of the sale of the Parsonage that the Rev. Dr. Wheaton occupy the same until Easter Monday, next, free of rent. Whereupon it was voted: that said report be approved and accepted; and it was also voted and resolved, that the Treasurer collect from George Engs the money due from him to the Church (except the amount secured by note and mortgage) to pay the debts of this Corporation.

Voted: that the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Treasurer and Isaiah Crooker, be a committee to collect all the papers and records of this Church, and to deposit such of them as they may deem necessary, in some secure place for safe keeping.

Whereas, in the opinion of this Vestry, it is time that a clergyman should be engaged to officiate in Trinity Church, after Easter next, it is therefore:

Voted: that the Rev. Dr. Wheaton be requested to give notice, on Sunday next, that a Corporation meeting will be held in the school house, on Thursday, the 11th day of September, at 3 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of passing such acts and resolutions as may be found necessary, in order to obtain the services of a clergyman after said Easter.

Whereupon the Rev. Dr. Wheaton requested that the consideration of said motion might be postponed until some future day and on motion made and seconded, it was Voted: that the Vestry stand adjourned until Friday evening, September 6, 1839, then to meet at the same place, at 7 o'clock p. m.

September 6, 1839. Voted: that at the request of the Rev. Dr. Wheaton, the consideration of the motion made on Tuesday

evening last, for calling a Corporation meeting, be postponed until the next regular Vestry meeting.

October 1, 1839. At the regular Meeting of the Vestry;

Voted: that the clergyman who shall officiate in Trinity Church on Sunday next, be requested to give notice that a meeting of the Corporation will be held in the Church School House, on Thursday, October 10th, at half-past six p. m., for the purpose of passing such acts and resolutions as shall be found necessary to obtain a clergyman to serve after Easter next, as the Minister of this Church.

Voted: that hereafter all monies received for, or on account of Trinity Church, by any officer or agent thereof, shall be paid to the Treasurer, and that hereafter all demands against Trinity Church shall be paid by the Treasurer; provided no money shall be paid out of the Treasury (except for salaries, which have been previously fixed by the Corporation), unless the claims have been submitted to the Corporation or Vestry, and approved by them; and it is also voted: that hereafter none of the revenue of the Church, which has been appropriated for any special purpose, shall be used for any other, except by special vote of the Corporation or Vestry.

Voted: that Mr. John Springer [Sexton] be not required to pay the sum of eight dollars, belonging to this Corporation, which was stolen from him, but that the same be given up to him.

Whereas: Miss Sarah Gibbs has expressed a wish to purchase Pew No. 18, in Trinity Church, for the purpose of erecting a monument therein, it is voted: that George Hall, Edward N. Cox, Samuel F. Gardner and Benjamin Finch be a committee to take said subject into consideration, and report thereon.

[It does not appear there was any further action on this subject.]

CHAPTER III.

1839-1844.

October 10, 1839. Special Meeting of the Corporation: Henry Bull, Moderator.

The following Resolution was presented by Stephen A. Robinson:

Whereas, the Corporation of Trinity Church has now assembled for the purpose "of passing such acts and resolutions, as shall be found necessary, to obtain a clergyman to serve after Easter, next, as the Minister of said Church"; and whereas, in the opinion of the Corporation, the end for which they have assembled, can be better accomplished by the appointment of a committee to select and engage a clergyman, from and after Easter next, for a term of time not exceeding one year; and it is therefore

Voted: that the Church Wardens and Vestrymen of this Church be a committee, to select and engage a clergyman to officiate after Easter next, as the Minister of Trinity Church; and the said committee, in the name of this Corporation, are hereby authorized to do what shall be found necessary for that purpose.

The resolution was adopted.

December 3, 1839. Voted: that the Treasurer and Henry Bull be a committee to ascertain what property, real and personal, now belongs to the Church, and make a detailed report.

March 21, 1840. Voted: that the Treasurer pay to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Griswold, ten dollars, to defray his expenses in visiting Trinity Church.

April 7, 1840. Voted: that the Senior Warden, Treasurer, George Hall and S. Fowler Gardner, be a committee to make a final settlement with Rev. Dr. Wheaton, and that a majority of the committee have power to act.

April 17, 1840. Adjourned meeting of the Vestry.

The committee appointed December 3, 1839, to ascertain what property, real and personal, belongs to the Church, beg leave to submit the following:

Real Estate. The Church edifice and lot on which it stands.
The School House and lot on which it stands.

The lot on the Hill, containing two acres, purchased with the proceeds of land originally given for and towards the support of the Minister for the time being, by Nathaniel Norton.

Personal Estate. The Permanent Fund: the interest of which only is given for the support of the Church, the principal to remain entire: consists of

78 shares in the Rhode Island Union Bank, purchased at various prices, par value \$100,	\$7,800
14 Shares in Newport Bank, par value \$60,	840
10 Shares in Bank of Rhode Island, par value \$100,	1,000
10 Shares in the Merchants Bank, par value \$100,	1,000
	<hr/>
Making,	\$10,640

The Church Fund consists of the following stocks and notes.

14 Shares Rhode Island Union Bank Stock,	\$1,400.00
2 Shares Bank of Rhode Island,	200.00
Henry Oman's note, in part payment for Parsonage,	496.61
Henry Oman's note, also in part payment for Parsonage, with interest semi-annually, secured by Mortgage,	<hr/>
	950.00
	<hr/>
Making,	\$3,046.61

There is also belonging to the Corporation, on the lower floor

of the Church, as far as the committee have been able to ascertain, thirty pews: Nos. 1, 2, 16, 17, 18, 21, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 53, 54, 55, 56, 68, 69, 70, 71, 83, 85, 87, 97, 98 and 99. Four of said pews are now used for stands for the four stoves.

In the Gallery the Church owns all the pews, except eight, according to the best information the committee could obtain.

The Poor Fund consists of 8 shares in R. I. Union Bank, par value \$100.

The Church is indebted to the Poor Fund, as liquidate, \$47.00 per annum in full, and we would respectfully suggest the expediency of transferring eight shares of the stock of the R. I. Union Bank, now belonging to the Corporation, to the Poor Fund, in full of that claim.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

HENRY BULL,
JOHN STERNE,
CHRIST. G. PERRY,

On motion, made and seconded, it was unanimously
Voted: that the above report be received and recorded.

April 20, 1840. Annual Meeting of the Corporation: 23 Corporators present. Henry Bull, Moderator.

The officers of the previous year re-elected with the exception of Thomas W. Brown and Thomas Breese, Vestrymen, in place of Henry Wood and Lloyd Minturn.

The election of Organist and Sexton referred to the Vestry.

Voted: that the tax on pews on the lower floor shall be \$8, and in the gallery \$3 for the ensuing year.

The committee appointed October 10, 1839, to select and engage a clergyman for the coming year, beg leave to report, that they have effected the object for which they were appointed, and herewith present a copy of their doings, also the doings of their sub-committee, all of which is here submitted by

HENRY BULL, Chairman.

Voted: that the report of the committee for employing a clergyman for this year be accepted, and that the salary be paid out of any funds arising from the income of the Church and congregation, not otherwise appropriated, for the present year, and that the report of the sub-committee be recorded.

REPORT.

At a meeting of the Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Trinity Church, Newport, held Wednesday evening, October 16, 1839.

Present: George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Christopher G. Perry, *Junior Warden*.

Henry Bull, George Hall, S. Fowler Gardner, Edward N. Cox, Isaiah Crooker, Benjamin Finch, Lloyd Minturn, John Sterne, John Vars and Joseph Bailey, *Vestrymen*.

On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously voted, that Henry Bull be the chairman of the Committee.

On motion, made and seconded, it was unanimously voted that George C. Mason be the Secretary of the committee.

A Resolution in the words following was presented by Henry Bull and Benjamin Finch for the consideration of the committee, viz.,

Voted: that a sub-committee, consisting of George Hall, Samuel F. Gardner and Christopher G. Perry, be authorized to negotiate with Francis Vinton, as a Minister for Trinity Church; and if, in their opinion, he shall be considered a suitable person, then to enter into an agreement with him, to serve said Church for one year, commencing on Easter Monday next, for a salary not exceeding one thousand dollars, in full of all services. And that in the execution of their duty, they govern themselves by the following directions.

First. The clergyman will be expected to perform the services of the Church according to the Rubrics and Canons thereof.

Second. That if the Minister who shall be called to officiate in Trinity Church shall belong to, or hereafter associate himself with, the Convocation Society, that he do it in his own individual capacity, and that the Church Corporation and congregation shall not be, directly or indirectly, called upon to contribute pecuniary aid to said Society.

Third. That the opening of the Church for divine service (except on Sundays and such other days as have heretofore been usual) should be discouraged.

Fourth. And as it is believed to be the general desire, that the amendment of the Charter of Incorporation respecting the Minister attending the meetings of the Vestry be repealed; that the committee confer with Mr. Vinton relative to said subject.

And said resolution having been read, it was unanimously voted that said resolution be adopted and pass as an act of this committee.

At a meeting of the committee, Tuesday, November 5, 1839, on motion made and seconded, it was unanimously voted, that the sub-committee, appointed to enter into an agreement with Francis Vinton, to serve Trinity Church as the Minister thereof, for one year after Easter next, be now authorized to offer to him twelve hundred and fifty dollars, as a salary in full of all services, instead of one thousand dollars, as first instructed.

December 3, 1839. Meeting of the committee.

The sub-committee reported that they had seen the Rev. Francis Vinton, and being satisfied, after conversing with him, that he was a suitable person to officiate in Trinity Church, they had called him to serve as the Minister thereof for one year, from Easter next, at a salary of twelve hundred and fifty dollars; and that said Vinton had accepted of said call; and said sub-committee also requested that the correspondence between them and the Rev. Francis Vinton be a part of the records

of the proceedings of this committee. The report having been heard, it was unanimously

Voted: that said report be received and that the thanks of this committee be tendered to Messrs. George Hall, Samuel Fowler Gardner and Christopher Grant Perry, for the services rendered by them, as a sub-committee, and for the attention and ability they have shown in the performance of the trust reposed in them.

Voted: that the thanks of the committee be extended to Henry Bull, for the able, faithful and impartial manner in which he has discharged the duties of Chairman, and for the high and honorable stand he has taken in regard to all matters brought before them, and the deep interest he has manifested for the welfare of Trinity Church.

Correspondence between the sub-committee and the Rev. Francis Vinton:

Newport, Oct. 18th, 1839.

Rev. and Dear Sir:

The Corporation of Trinity Church on the 10th inst., at a legal meeting, delegated to a committee, consisting of the Wardens and Vestry, the power of procuring a Minister for the Church, for the year ensuing Easter next. At a subsequent meeting of the Committee above mentioned, the subscribers were appointed a Committee to wait upon and confer with you, for the purpose of ascertaining if your views respecting the manner, &c., of performing the duties, incumbent on the Minister of Trinity Church, coincided with theirs, and if there were no insuperable objections, they were authorized to give you a call to preside over their pastoral concerns for the term as above mentioned: in compliance of which, after a full and free and open interchange of opinions with you, and upon the belief your filling that situation would tend much to restore harmony and concord among its members, as well as promote their spiritual welfare, we do, in the name and behalf of the Corporation of Trinity

Church, invite you to accept that office. As a matter of compensation, we were authorized to propose the sum of one thousand dollars, payable quarterly. With a firm hope and trust, that your acceptance of said office would tend to promote the great cause you have so much at heart. We are, with much respect and esteem your friends

GEO. HALL,
S. FOWLER GARDNER,
C. G. PERRY.

Providence, 7th Nov., 1839.

Messrs. George Hall, Samuel F. Gardner and C. Grant Perry,
Committee:

Gentlemen:

I have received and deliberately considered the invitation of Trinity Church, Newport, conveyed to me thro' you, as their Committee, inviting me to the Rectorship of Trinity Church, for one year from Easter day next ensuing. I have also been favored by personal interviews with you, and have had a friendly correspondence with some of the members of your Vestry. The question has thus been fully set before me, on the part of Trinity Church. And on the other hand I have surveyed the bearings of my decision on the infant Parish of St. Stephen's, Providence, now under my charge. I have also sought the counsel and direction of the Giver of Light and Wisdom.

According to the intimation, which I gave to you today, in Pawtucket, I am prepared to accept your invitation on the following conditions:

The first is, that I be allowed to postpone my entrance on the duties of Rector of Trinity Church until after the State Convention in June, if at Easter the interests of St. Stephen's Church seem to demand it.

I have stated to the Committee, in our interview today, the contingency which I foresee as possible to happen, requiring me absolutely to remain in Providence until June, and the Committee have stated to me the strong reason why I should be in Newport, at Easter. They shall not be disregarded.

The second condition is, that a vacation be allowed me in

the summer (as many weeks as the Vestry may deem proper) for recreation, and to recruit my health. It is not probable that I shall take this vacation next summer, but it is a condition which experience and the usage and testimony of others have convinced me is expedient, both for the parish and their minister. The responsibility and expense (if any there be) to be taken by the Church: yet I shall deem it my duty to co-operate with them in supplying the pulpit in my absence.

The third condition is, that the salary be \$1250 per annum, to be paid quarterly. I would subjoin, Gentlemen, the expectation, that, if after trial, our relation as Pastor and people shall prove to be mutually agreeable and profitable, I shall be instituted by the Bishop, according to the order of the Church.

I have been greatly urged to this decision, Gentlemen, by the assurance I have received from you and other esteemed friends, of the unanimity with which I have been called to Trinity Church, and of the disposition to aid me in the difficult and arduous duties of Rector of the Church. Next to the confidence I repose in the Almighty arm of our Divine Saviour, the hope of your united co-operation encourages me to look forward to a happy ministry among you.

I feel, Gentlemen, the great necessity both of your prayers and your favorable countenance: may I not rely on both? And may God grant to me among you many seals of my ministry, and of His grace.

I remain, Gentlemen, your friend and servant,

FRANCIS VINTON.

Newport, Nov. 9th, 1839.

Rev. Francis Vinton,

Rev. and Dear Sir:

We have your esteemed favor of the 7th inst. in which you express your willingness to accept the call made to you, by the Committee, in behalf of the Corporation of Trinity Church, with such amendments as you suggest. The substance of your wishes were laid before the general Committee of the Corporation, on the evening of the last Vestry meeting, in anticipation of your views respecting the inadequacy of the amount

we had proposed as a compensation for your services. Altho' the sum named was thought as large as the state of the times and our funds would at present seem to warrant, still, with a desire to meet your wishes, we were empowered to substitute twelve hundred and fifty dollars, instead of the sum named.

As regards the first condition, we think it of much more importance and one we cannot assent to, without great reluctance; but from the tenor of your conversation and the opinion of the gentlemen with whom you conferred, of its being only a *possible contingency*, we will waive our objections and assent to it.

To the second condition we also assent, in the full assurance you would not ask or require the time to the detriment of the welfare of the Church, unless your health should require it.

Having thus, my dear Sir, adjusted all these minutiae, and with a full assurance that you will in the Vestry, meet that cordial concert, without which your labors might be in vain, and with a fervent hope, that at the expiration of the time, you will be enabled to say, It were good for me to have been here; we remain with much respect and esteem,

Your friends and servants,

GEORGE HALL,
S. FOWLER GARDNER,
CHRIST G. PERRY.

Providence, Nov. 11th, 1839.

Messrs. Hall, Gardner and Perry,

Gentlemen:

I have just received yours of the 9th inst. in answer to mine of the 8th in which, on certain conditions I accepted your call to Trinity Church, with which you honored me.

You remark "as regards the first condition, we think it one we cannot assent to without great reluctance, but from the tenor of your conversation and the opinion of the gentlemen with whom you conferred, of this being only a *possible contingency*, we will waive our objections and assent to it."

I think it expedient to be more explicit on this condition and therefore I write you again, to prevent future disappointment, by a mutual understanding of the terms of our engagement, and

if you have acted, in any way, under a misapprehension, or without a proper understanding of the first condition, I beg you will not hesitate to reconsider the subject; and if the Vestry are not perfectly satisfied, I hope they will do me the justice to believe, that I have the prosperity of your Church so near my heart, that if you call any other minister, who can better or more fully supply your necessities, I shall acquiesce cheerfully.

Permit me therefore to state precisely the "possible contingency" which impelled me to make the condition in question.

St. Stephen's Church may not, at Easter, be in such a state of forwardness, as to warrant my withdrawal from it, at that time. If I should leave before the measures for building were matured, and no minister should be present to take my place, I fear that my departure would paralyze effort, and the Church be sacrificed.

The "possible contingency" to which you refer is, then, *no minister, or no Church begun at Easter*. If neither a minister is present to take my place, nor the Church begun at Easter, I shall feel myself constrained to remain till June, to employ the intervening weeks in advancing and settling the plans now in motion.

Now, Gentlemen, my opinion as to the possibility of the contingency is decidedly, that a proper successor will be found agreeable to the Vestry, and ready to take my place, and that the measures now on foot to erect a suitable Church will be matured by Easter.

I am duly sensible, Gentlemen, of the reason of your reluctance to assent to this condition, and of the motive which induces you to waive your objection to it. I can see a strong necessity for the regular and uninterrupted administration of the Gospel in Trinity Church. The Church should not, without good cause, be at any time closed, and it is very important that your future Minister should be on the spot at or near Easter-day (if for no other reason) because you will then probably dispose of the pews, and make the other arrangements for the year. Besides, the present unsettled state of the parish is exceedingly detrimental to its well-being, and it ought not to

continue disturbed longer than is necessary. Nothing, therefore, but the paramount obligation of the "possible contingency," will warrant my delay after Easter.

Respecting the second condition, permit me to remark, that I stated no *time* of vacation, leaving it to you to fix the precise period of absence. In your letter you have (thro' inadvertency I presume) omitted to specify it. The sub-committee having suggested that you would propose the definite period, say four weeks, I acceded accordingly. This is of no other present importance (as I do not propose to be absent next year) than that it is explicit and will prevent further misapprehension.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, allow me to express my respectful acknowledgment to you, and to the Vestry and Corporation of Trinity Church for the confidence you have reposed in me, and for the friendly assurance you have so politely conveyed to me. I thank you, also, for the honor of your frank conference with me on the several points preliminary to the sacred relation, which you sought. The connection between the Pastor and his flock is too solemn and momentous, either to be entered into or broken unadvisedly. May the result be to the Glory of God, in the salvation of many, is the prayer of

Your humble servant and brother,

FRANCIS VINTON.

Newport, Nov. 12th, 1839.

Rev. Francis Vinton,

Rev. and Dear Sir:

Your favor of yesterday was received last evening. We thank you for the freedom with which you have stated the question. With regard to the first condition, we have only to say that our views correspond perfectly with those expressed by you. After the full and explicit statement you have made and from your knowing the wishes of our Parish on that point, we are willing to leave the matter entirely to your decision. The question whether you can in justice to St. Stephen's come at Easter or not, to be decided by yourself, and we beg you to accept the assurance of our perfect acquiescence in your decision.

As the second condition, four weeks would be the longest period, which, under all the circumstances of the case, we could feel justified in offering for your acceptance. We hope that this may meet with your approbation. Permit us, now that the business is so near its close, to hope that it may be as satisfactory to you as to us. Our anticipations for the future are bright and cheering, and we look, through your instrumentality and the blessing of God, for brighter days for our Church.

Your friends and humble servants,

GEO. HALL,

S. FOWLER GARDNER,

CHRIS. G. PERRY.

[At the above meeting a letter was received from Rev. Dr. Wheaton, which was laid on the table, and his request was not granted. This precluded the entering the letter on the records, and there is no copy of it in the archives; but the writer has found the original in a package of old papers, in private hands. It is as follows.]

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

From the disaffection of a portion of the Church last Easter, I was led to announce my resignation. The experience of last year, however, has taught me, that the disaffection, at first apparently so general, is actually confined to a comparatively small number of the Congregation. I have the consolation to know that true affection, and kind and noble feelings still live, never to die, in the hearts of those who have made in this Church, a public confession of their faith in Christ, and who have attended here, with the sincere and single purpose of holding communion with their God. Satisfied, however, that no amiable and satisfactory arrangements can be brought about, while the domination of the few is tolerated by the great majority, I now tender to the Congregation the resignation of my charge; assuring them that I still, and ever shall cherish, an anxious wish for the welfare and prosperity of Trinity Church.

In conclusion, I would express to the Congregation my hope,

that some provision will be made to meet the probable expenses that I must necessarily incur, by the removal of my family from this place.

Very Respectfully,

S. WHEATON.

Newport, Monday morning, April 20th, 1840.

May 12, 1840. Voted: that the Treasurer pay out of any funds in his hands, for a new scarf for the new surplice which has been procured by the Wardens.

Voted: that the Treasurer pay for the Book of Psalms and Hymns, purchased by the Senior Warden, for the pulpit, desk and altar.

Voted: that the Senior Warden purchase a new folio Prayer Book, for the desk, and that the Treasurer pay for the same, and that the old Prayer Book be placed in the chancel.

The following letter was received from John Springer, Sexton, which was read and received:

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport,
Gentlemen:

I have served as Sexton of Trinity Church for the last thirty years, and have endeavored faithfully to perform the duties of said office, and would most cheerfully continue so to do, did not my age prevent it. I am now seventy-one years old, and feel that I ought to withdraw, and I therefore respectfully request that you will not consider me as a candidate for said situation.

JOHN SPRINGER.

May 12th, 1840.

Voted unanimously: that the thanks of this Vestry be tendered to John Springer, for his long and faithful service as Sexton of this Church: and the Senior Warden is requested to hand him a copy of this vote, and at the same time express to him

how much this Vestry regret that the hand of time presses so heavily upon him as to cause him to resign the office which he has so long filled.

May 13, 1840. Voted: that Mrs. Mary Moore be continued as organist of this Church, until a permanent appointment is made, and that the salary be at the rate of \$125 per annum.

June 2, 1840. The committee appointed to engage a Sexton, reported that they have engaged Samuel Gladding to serve during the will of the Vestry, at a salary at the rate of \$78 per annum.

Whereas, Richard K. Randolph, Chairman of the committee appointed by the General Assembly, to make the necessary arrangements for celebrating the semi-centennial anniversary of the adoption of this State, of the Constitution of the United States, has requested the use of the Church edifice for that occasion, it is voted that said request be granted.

[The celebration took place on the 25th of June. The procession was formed in front of the State House, and the escort was comprised of seven military companies, from different parts of the State. In the procession were the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, members of the General Assembly and State officers, and was closed up by citizens. The galleries in the Church were given up to ladies, the military companies occupied the wall pews, and the body of the house was reserved for the procession. Prayer was offered by Rev. John West, of Zion Church, and the oration was delivered by Hon. William R. Staples, of Providence. Salutes were fired during the day, and the bells were rung morning, noon and evening.]

August 5, 1840. Whereas, the Corporation of this Church, at their Annual Meeting, April 20, 1840, did receive and adopt a report of a committee made to the Church Wardens and Vestry, April 17, 1840, in which report it was recommended to transfer to the Poor Fund of said Church, eight shares in the

R. I. Union Bank, standing in the name of the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, in Newport; and it is therefore voted: that the Treasurer transfer said eight shares to the Minister, Church Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church, in Newport, in trust for the poor of said Church.

The following note from Mrs. Mary Moore was read by the Senior Warden:

Sir: I presume you will recollect that I accepted the organ in the Spring, for the *present*. I would now inform you that after this month I shall resign the situation.

Respectfully, &c.,

MARY MOORE.

It was unanimously voted: that said resignation be received; and it was voted: that the Wardens employ a suitable person as organist, until further action on the subject be taken by the Vestry.

December 1, 1840, Miss Angelica C. Gardner having made application through the Senior Warden, for permission to place a marble monument on the wall of her pew, in the Church, to the memory of her grandfather, grandmother and aunt, it is Voted: that permission be granted, provided said monument be approved by the Wardens of the Church.

The "monument," a mural tablet, placed there, bears this inscription:

*"The sweet remembrance of the just,
Shall flourish when they sleep in dust."*

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF

THOMAS & ELIZABETH WICKHAM;

who, during a happy union of 50 years, worshipped
in this Sanctuary, & walked "in all the commandments
and ordinances of the Lord."

AND

CATHERINE WICKHAM,

their daughter ; who was born January 23rd, 1775,
and departed this life Sept. 21st, 1840, in her 66th year.

They lived in close communion with the Redeemer
and died, depending on His merits alone for salvation.

Their remains, deposited in their family vault,
in the Clifton burying ground;
are awaiting the first resurrection: for
"The dead in Christ shall rise first."

This monument is erected as a tribute
of Gratitude, Affection, and Respect,
by the sole survivor (in this town)
of their large and happy family.

*"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away;
Blessed be the name of the Lord."*

February 2, 1841. Voted: that the Senior Warden (when he thinks it most convenient) call a meeting of the Corporation, for the purpose of settling a clergyman in Trinity Church, and doing all that may be necessary relative to the same.

February 12, 1841. Special meeting of the Corporation.

Voted: that the Rev. Francis Vinton be called as Rector of Trinity Church, from Easter next, and if he accept said call, that he be instituted as Rector, as soon after Easter as may be found convenient.

Voted: that George Hall, Samuel F. Gardner, and Christopher G. Perry be a committee to inform the Rev. Francis Vinton of the above vote, to confer with him on the subject, and to report to this Corporation.

Voted: that when this meeting adjourns, it will adjourn to Friday evening, February 19, 1841, at 7 o'clock. And it is also voted: that the Senior Warden request the Rev. Francis Vinton to give notice to the congregation next Sunday, that there will be an adjourned meeting of the Corporation in conformity

to this vote, and at said meeting the vacancy in the Vestry, occasioned by the removal of Mr. Thomas Breese²⁷ from Newport, will be filled by the election of another Vestryman.

The Senior Warden presented and read the following letter from the Rev. Francis Vinton.

Mr. George C. Mason, Senior Warden:

Dear Sir: I propose (if the Lord will) to improve the Holy Days in the approaching season of Lent, by delivering a course of Lectures in the afternoon or evening. If you think it necessary or expedient, will you please to give notice to the Corporation, at their meeting, and ask the appropriation of funds for the current expenses of warming (and if occasion require) of lighting the Church.

This could be accomplished by private subscription, or by a box contribution, but a more dignified, as well as more just method (in my judgment) is to defray our expenses from the Treasury. This is the usage of the Church, founded on right principles, and is, besides, expedient under our present circumstances. I desire an expression of opinion on the subject from the Corporation, and will thank you (if it can be done legally at a special meeting) to obtain an order, by which I shall be able to shape my plans for the edification of the Church.

I remain, dear sir, your affectionate friend and Pastor,

FRANCIS VINTON.

Voted: that the above letter be referred to the Vestry.

At a special meeting of the Vestry, held the same evening,

²⁷ THOMAS BREESE, son of Major John Breese, British Vice Consul at Newport, shipped when a lad with Commodore O. H. Perry, as Captain's Clerk, went with him to Lake Erie, assisted in firing the last gun on board the *Lawrence*, and passed unhurt through that memorable battle. July 8, 1815, he was appointed Purser in the navy, and retained the office through life. He married, May 25, 1825, Lucy Maria Randolph, daughter of Richard K. Randolph, and died at Cambridge, Mass., October 12, 1846. He was a member of the Vestry in 1835.

the letter of the Rev. Francis Vinton, referred to the Vestry by the Corporation having been read, it was

Voted: that the Senior Warden inform Mr. Vinton, that any course he may deem best to pursue, in regard to the services he speaks of, in said letter, will meet with the approbation of this Vestry; and it is also voted: that the Senior Warden procure the lights and fuel that may be necessary.

February 19, 1841. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation.

The Rev. Mr. Vinton having given notice to the Corporation on Sunday last, that at this meeting a Vestryman was to be appointed in the place of Thomas Breese, removed from town, it was unanimously voted: that John H. Gilliat be a Vestryman until Easter next.

The committee appointed at the last meeting, to inform Rev. Francis Vinton of the call of this Corporation, for him to be Rector of Trinity Church, from Easter next, reported that they had performed that duty, and had received a letter from Mr. Vinton on the subject, as follows:

Newport, 18th February, 1841.

Messrs. George Hall, Samuel F. Gardner, C. G. Perry, Committee;
Gentlemen:

I have the satisfaction to acknowledge the receipt of the Resolution of the Corporation of Trinity Church, calling me by an unanimous vote, to be the Rector of Trinity Church, from Easter next, and providing for my canonical institution, in case of my acceptance of said call.

I would not disguise the sincere gratification, Gentlemen, which this testimony of the confidence of Trinity Church has afforded me. I do most cordially reciprocate their good will. When I look back on our intercourse for nearly a year, I see nothing to regret, except the conscious ill-desert of the many blessings with which it has pleased God to crown us. I desire to bear witness, however, to the deference, to the steady kind-

ness and to the sympathy, with which the Church, in both their Corporate and individual capacity, have extended towards me, under trials and afflictions. And I will frankly say, that if it be possible, without unreasonable sacrifices, for me to accept their call to be the Rector, I shall feel it a duty and a pleasure to return an affirmative answer to their invitation. Yet the answer must necessarily be deferred until the further action of the Corporation, proposing the conditions and terms of our connection, with such definiteness as will preclude future mistakes and misunderstandings.

After our late free interchange of sentiment, and the knowledge which you obtained at our interview, you will be prepared to state to the Corporation, that on the one hand, my Living, named by myself last year, has proved to be so inadequate, as to leave me in arrears, and to compel me to draw on slender private resources for the current expenditures, which my position and contingencies have rendered unavoidable. Judging from the past respecting the future, it would be imprudent to incur the liabilities, which the present amount of my Living will impose, and thus jeopard my independence, my peace of mind and my respectability. And on the other hand, you will please repeat to the Corporation, the fixed determination with which I commenced and shall continue my ministry: not to be a burden to the Parish, and to receive no more for my maintenance as a householder and Rector, than is cheerfully and without hardship contributed.

Accept, Gentlemen, my thankful acknowledgments of the politeness and consideration, with which you convey to me the Resolutions of the Corporation, and conferred with me on the several topics connected with them.

I remain your affectionate Minister and Friend,

FRANCIS VINTON.

Said letter having been read it was

Voted: that the Corporation pay to the Rev. Mr. Vinton, as a salary for the next year, the sum of fifteen hundred dollars,

with the understanding that he also have the same liberty of absence as the last year; and it was also

Voted: that the same committee appointed at the last meeting, to inform Mr. Vinton of his call, be a committee to inform him of this vote, and to report to the Vestry what his determination shall be relative to the same.

Voted: that the Vestry be authorized to appoint such persons as they shall deem proper, to take into consideration the financial concerns of the Corporation, and to report to the Vestry such ways and means as they shall deem best for the Corporation to adopt, to pay the expenses of the coming year.

February 19, 1841. Special meeting of the Church Wardens and Vestrymen.

Voted: that Samuel F. Gardner, George C. Mason, John Sterne, Henry Bull, Benjamin Finch, John H. Gilliat and George Hall be a Committee of Finance, to take into consideration what cause it will be most advisable to adopt, in order to enable this Corporation to pay the expenses of the coming year, and that said committee report to the Vestry the ways and means they consider will be best to accomplish this end.

March 9, 1841. Voted: that Christopher G. Perry, George Hall and John Sterne be a committee to ascertain what pews belong to the Corporation, and fix a value on them.

March 11, 1841. Voted: that no persons be allowed to occupy the front pews in the north gallery, except owners or lessees.

Voted: that John Sterne and George C. Mason be a committee to report to the Corporation, on Easter Monday, upon the financial affairs of the Church.

The committee appointed by the Vestry, to ascertain what pews are owned by the Church, and to make a valuation of said pews, would report as follows:

On the lower floor:

Pew No. 1, valued at \$10.	Pew No. 56, valued at \$25.
" 2, " 20.	" 68, " 30.
" 17, " "	" 69, " 25.
" 21, " 25.	" 70, " 25.
" 32, " 20.	" 71, " 30.
" 33, " 10.	" 83, " 25.
" 40, " 20.	" 85, " 20.
" 41, " 25.	" 87, " 30.
" 42, " 30.	" 97, " 30.
" 43, " 35.	" 98, " 25.
" 53, " 25.	" 99, " 20.

Whole valuation \$505.

Pews in the North Gallery:

No. 1, valued at \$8.	No. 8, valued at \$10.
" 2, " 5.	" 14, " 10.
" 3, " 8.	" 16, " 8.
" 4, " 8.	" 17, " 8.
" 5, " 10.	" 18, " 5.
" 6, " 10.	

Valuation of Gallery pews, \$90.

Total valuation, \$595.

The Church also owns four pews in which at present the stoves are placed. Two pews are appropriated for strangers, and two for the Rector; all of which are on the lower floor. There are also in the north gallery, five upper or back pews, Nos. 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, and twelve of the same kind in the south gallery, Nos. 30, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 and 58, which said twelve are occupied by the Blacks, and have not been valued although they belong to the Church.

Said report having been read, it was voted that it be received and recorded.

Voted: that all the pews belonging to the Corporation be valued, and the lessee to pay in addition to the tax, a rent equal to the interest on the valuation. The pews are to be leased on the condition that they be given up at any time when they can

be sold at the valuation; but any lessee shall have the privilege of purchasing the pew he may hire, provided he pays the value set upon it, within seven days from the time he receives notice that another person is ready to purchase it.

The committee appointed by the Corporation, February 19, 1841, to inform the Rev. Mr. Vinton of their doings in regard to his salary, made the following report:

The Committee appointed by the Corporation of Trinity Church, at a meeting held on the 9th day of February, 1841, to wait upon the Rev. Francis Vinton and tender him the vote of the Corporation, calling him to preside over said Church, as their Rector, and to request his acceptance of the same, beg leave to report, that in compliance with their instructions they waited upon the Rev. Mr. Vinton, presenting him the vote, and stating the wishes of the Corporation. After a full interchange of opinions, Mr. Vinton stated he would make a written reply, which was done, and was by this Committee laid before the adjourned meeting of the Corporation, held on the 19th of February inst., when the Committee were again instructed to see Mr. Vinton, and inform him of the vote then passed, calling him to the Rectorship, with a salary of fifteen hundred dollars per year. This was done, and we had the pleasure of receiving his verbal acceptance of the same. Since which we have received a written communication from him, addressed to the Corporation, in which, for the reason therein stated, and in compliance with the sentiments expressed in his first communication to the Corporation, of the 18th of February, he declined to receive the extra sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, as will more fully appear, upon reference to said letter on file, and on the records of the Corporation. The Committee were instructed to make report of their doings to the Vestry of Trinity Church at their first meeting.

GEORGE HALL,

Chairman of the Committee.

Newport, Feby., 1841.

Voted: that unless all back dues on the following pews, viz.: Nos. 15, 20, 23, 45, 59, 79 and 100 are settled to the satisfaction of the Junior Warden, previous to Easter next, they shall be advertised and sold, according to the provision of the Charter, any former vote of this Vestry to the contrary notwithstanding.

April 6, 1841. The Committee appointed March 11, 1841, to draw up and make a report to the Corporation on Easter Monday, upon the financial concerns of the Church, present for the approval of the Vestry their report, as follows:

To the Vestry and Corporation of Trinity Church:

The undersigned appointed by the Wardens and Vestry, to ascertain what the expenses of this Church for the coming year will be, and to report the ways and means which they shall deem most advisable for the Corporation to adopt, in order to meet the same, respectfully report, that after due consideration of the subject referred to them, they find that the probable expenses of the coming year will not vary much from those of the past year, which were as follows:

Minister's salary,	\$1250.00
Organist, do.,	125.00
Sexton, do.,	78.00
Miscellaneous expenses,	<u>300.00</u>
Amounting to	\$1750.00

The income of the Church for the same time was as follows:

Pew tax received and to be received,	\$594.00	
Contributions on Sundays,	30.41	
Dividends on Permanent and Church funds,	593.40	
Rent of lot,	28.00	
Interest on H. Oman's note for \$950,	<u>57.00</u>	<u>1302.81</u>

Leaving a balance due from the Corporation of \$450.19
To be paid out of H. Oman's note for \$475.

The Committee therefore report that the expenses of the Corporation for the coming year will be \$1753.00, to be provided

for by the Corporation, and which the Committee recommend to be raised by a tax of \$12 on the pews on the lower floor, a tax of \$5 on the pews in the gallery, and an additional sum assessed on all pews belonging to the Corporation, equal to the interest on the valuation of the same, made to the Vestry March 11th, 1841, by a committee for that purpose appointed: which said tax and assesment will produce as follows, viz.:

90 pews on the lower floor, rented at \$12,	\$1080.00
8 do. in the gallery, at \$5,	40.00
Interest on valuation of Church pews,	30.05
Making \$1150.05. Amount required to be raised, \$1110.60, leaving an excess of \$39.45 to meet incidental expenses which may accrue during the year, not taken into the account.	

JOHN STERNE,
GEO. C. MASON,
Committee.

Newport, April 5th, 1841.

Said report having been read, it was voted that the same be approved.

April 12, 1841. Annual Meeting on Easter Monday.

Voted: that the letter of the Rev. Francis Vinton to this Corporation, dated March 4, 1841, be received and recorded.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church,
Gentlemen:

I accept your call to be the Rector of Trinity Church, agreeably to the terms of your resolutions of February 12th and 19th, which have been communicated to me officially by your Committee.

I thank you, Gentlemen, for this expression of your continued confidence, and for your kind and generous provision for the comfort of your Pastor, and the respectability of the Rector of Trinity Church. But I am informed, unofficially, that there are in the congregation, persons who regard the addition of \$250 to my present salary as a burden on the Corporation. While this is the case, that addition would only increase my anxieties and impair my usefulness: therefore I beg leave to decline it.

May the blessing of Almighty God confirm and prosper our connection, and cause it to result to His glory and our everlasting joy.

Your devoted friend and Minister,

FRANCIS VINTON.

Newport, March 4, 1841.

Whereas, at a meeting of the Vestry, March 11, 1841, a vote was passed as follows, viz.:

Voted: that all the pews belonging to the Corporation be valued and the lessees to pay in addition to the tax a rent equal to the interest on the valuation: the pews to be leased on the condition that they be given up at any time when they can be sold at the valuation; but any lessee shall have the privilege of purchasing the pew he may hire, provided he pays the value set upon it, within seven days from the time he received notice that another person is ready to purchase it.

The Corporation, approving of said vote of the Vestry, it was unanimously voted that the same become a law of the Corporation.

The following officers were elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Christopher G. Perry, *Junior Warden*.

Samuel F. Gardner, Christopher Fry, Benjamin Finch, John Sterne, John Vars, Joseph Bailey, Thomas W. Brown, John H. Gilliat, Samuel Engs, Moses Norman and Samuel Allen, *Vestrymen*.

John Sterne, *Treasurer*.

Benjamin A. Mason, *Secretary*.

Samuel F. Gardner and John H. Gilliat, delegates to the Diocesan and State Convention.

The election of Organist and Sexton referred to the Vestry.

Tax on the lower floor, \$12; on gallery pews, \$5.

April 12, 1841. Voted: that the Treasurer, after counselling

with the Rev. Mr. Vinton, pay to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Griswold, such sum as he may think proper for his expenses in coming to Newport, to institute the Rev. Mr. Vinton, as Rector of this Church.

October 22, 1841. The following letter addressed to the Senior Warden, was laid before the Vestry:

Mr. Mason, Dear Sir: Please to ascertain from the Vestry, whether the Church Lot is for sale or to be leased on a perpetuity. If for sale, the price and time of payment. If on lease, the amount of annual rent, &c.

Your friend,
W. C. GIBBS.

Newport, 22d October, 1841.

The letter was referred to the next meeting.

The Treasurer reported that he had given to the Bishop ten dollars, for his expenses in visiting this Church in August last, and the same was approved by the Vestry.

November 2, 1841. The letter of William C. Gibbs, referred to this meeting, having been read, it was voted: that the Corporation will lease the Church lot, on the Hill, for \$75 a year, provided the applicant and the Vestry can agree upon the time the lease shall run, and the purpose for which it shall be used.

December 7, 1841. The Senior Warden presented a letter from the Treasurer of the Episcopal Fund, dated November 19, 1841, to the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, relating to a deficiency in the sum annually pledged by the Convention of the Eastern Diocese towards the Bishop's support, and recommending that a collection be taken up in all the churches of said Diocese, to be appropriated to the payment of said deficiency. Said letter having been read and duly considered, it was voted: that the Secretary inform the Treasurer that his letter has been received; that this Church has each year paid more than the

sum assessed upon her, and that the Wardens and Vestry think that they ought not to call on the congregation to make up the deficiency caused by the neglect of other churches.

March 28, 1842. Annual Meeting on Easter Monday.

The officers of last year were re-elected with the exception of the following changes. George C. Mason retired as Senior Warden, and Samuel F. Gardner was elected in his place. Mr. Mason took Mr. Gardner's place, as first Vestryman, and George Hall and John Pitman took the places of Christopher Fry and Samuel Allen in the Vestry.

Voted: that Samuel Gladding be the Sexton so long as the Senior Warden shall deem it for the interest of the Church to employ him.

Voted: that the thanks of this Vestry be tendered to Mr. James C. Swan, for his services as organist, and especially for his attendance at Church on Prayer Days.

November 1, 1842. The Rev. Mr. Vinton and other gentlemen requested that the Church school house might again be occupied by a day school, to be under the direction of Mr. Vinton; which request was granted.

December 6, 1842. Voted: that the Wardens call a meeting of the Corporation, for the purpose of deciding whether the bell [which had been found to be cracked] should be re-cast; and if so, to provide for the payment of the same.

[A meeting of the Corporation was called, but there being no quorum, the meeting adjourned without day. In the meantime a subscription had been set on foot, as appears below.]

December 15, 1842. The Senior Warden reported that about \$130 had been subscribed for the expense of re-casting the bell; that adding to the weight thereof one hundred and twenty-five pounds, the probable expense would be \$150; whereupon it was voted that the Senior Warden have the bell re-cast.

March 7, 1843. The Senior Warden reported the cost of the

new bell (including hanging) \$234.13, and of subscriptions \$212.-90, leaving a balance to be paid of \$21.23 which he was authorized to draw from the treasury.

A letter from the Standing Committee of our Diocese, on the subject of electing a Bishop, was read. A special Corporation meeting was ordered to be held at the School House, on Monday evening, March 20, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of electing delegates to attend a special Convention, to be held at St. Stephen's Church, Providence, April 6, 1843.

March 20, 1843. Meeting of the Corporation.

The letter was read from the Secretary of the Standing Committee, calling a special Convention, to be held in St. Stephen's Church, April 6, 1843, for the election of a Bishop, or for making some other provision for Episcopal supervision of the Diocese.

The Delegates appointed at the meeting held March 28, 1842, tendered their resignations, which were accepted.

Voted: that the delegates be four in number: Messrs. Samuel F. Gardner, John H. Gilliat, Christopher G. Perry and Benjamin Finch.

April 24, 1843. Adjourned Meeting of the Corporation.

Samuel F. Gardner, Christopher G. Perry, George Hall and Benjamin Finch were elected delegates to the State Convention.

The following officers were elected:

John H. Gilliat, *Senior Warden* (Mr. Gardner having resigned).

Christopher G. Perry, *Junior Warden*.

George C. Mason, Samuel F. Gardner, Benjamin Finch, John Sterne, John Vars, Thomas W. Brown, Samuel Engs, Moses Norman, Russell Coggeshall, John Pitman and Edward N. Cox, *Vestrymen*.

John Sterne, *Treasurer*.

Benjamin A. Mason, *Secretary*.

George Taylor, *Organist*.

Samuel Gladding, *Sexton*.

The tax remained unchanged.

Voted: that the consideration of the question of making such alterations in the south gallery, as will make the pews productive to the Church, be referred to the Vestry, with full power to act in the matter, provided no expense be incurred by the Corporation.

October 3, 1843. A letter was received by the Vestry, from the Rector, relating to Mrs. Jones'²⁸ donation of Plate, and was read and received.

Voted: that the Treasurer return to J. H. Gilliat the amount paid by him to the Convention, and for the Bishop's expenses in attending confirmation.

Voted: that the south side of the organ loft be filled with suitable seats, for the use of the Sunday School, and that John Sterne be a committee for that purpose.

Voted: that the Bishop's salary be paid by collection and that the money so collected be paid to the Treasurer, who is to keep a separate account of the same.

November 28, 1843. A letter was read, from the Rector, transmitting a letter from the Bishop, in regard to Sunday offerings.

Voted: that the Vestry decline giving their consent to the proposal contained in the Bishop's letter.

²⁸ MENTION is made of the gift in the list of "Silver belonging to Trinity Church," first series, page 340.

Mrs. Sarah Jones was the widow of Noble W. Jones, of Savannah, Georgia. Her son, George Jones, bought a lot of land on the corner of Bellevue Avenue and Bowery street, in the Autumn of 1839, and erected upon it a cottage,—the first of a class of Summer cottages built in Newport. Mrs. Jones resided with her son's family and died there July 1, 1843. Mr. Jones continued to reside in Newport. Like his mother and other members of the family, he took an interest in the Church, and at one time was a member of the Vestry. He purchased a burial lot in the churchyard, and there rest the remains of his mother and sister.

April 8, 1844. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; the Rector in the chair.

The annual account of the Treasurer having been read, it was voted: that the same be received and accepted.

In consequence of an alarm of fire, the meeting adjourned till April 9.

April 9, 1844. Adjourned Meeting of the Corporation.

Voted: that the delegates elected to attend the State and Diocesan Conventions be instructed to use their best endeavors to have the vote passed by the Convention, admitting black delegates, repealed.

Voted: that Samuel F. Gardner, John H. Gilliat, Christopher G. Perry and Joshua Sayre, be the delegates to the Convention.

The following officers were elected:

John H. Gilliat, *Senior Warden*.

Christopher G. Perry, *Junior Warden*.

Samuel F. Gardner, George Hall, John Sterne, Thomas W. Brown, Samuel Engs, William V. Taylor, John Pitman, David King, Daniel Goff, Henry Bull and John G. Whitehorne, *Vestrymen*.

Walter Nichols,²⁹ *Secretary*.

Other officers re-elected. The tax remained unchanged.

Voted: that the black part of the congregation be allowed to occupy the seats on the north side of the gallery; provided the consent of those who now occupy the front pews be obtained.

April 16, 1844. Voted: that the family of the late Mrs. Jones have permission to hold five lots [in the churchyard] for the

²⁹ WALTER NICHOLS, son of William S. Nichols, served the Church as an efficient Junior Warden from 1845 to 1848, and previous to that for a number of years, as Secretary. The records that he kept at that time are the most lucid and satisfactory of any owned by the Church. Not till he left Newport to take up his residence in Brooklyn, N. Y., did he sever his connection with the Church.

purpose of erecting a monument, by paying the usual fee of \$25 for each lot.

Voted: that a committee be appointed to inquire into the rights of individuals, to bury in that part of the churchyard east of the walk; and if there is any exclusive privilege secured to any, to ascertain in whom it is vested.

May 7, 1844. The Committee on the Organ reported that Mr. Irving [Erben] from New York, had examined it, and stated as the result, that the whole interior should be rebuilt, and that the front part of the case could be left as it now stands: and that the expense for an organ of the first class, with double banks of keys, and two sub-bass pedals, would be \$1150. Without sub-bass pedals, \$950. If that part taken out was sold to him, \$25 would be allowed; and two of the stops now in the old one he advised to have put in the new.

It having been stated by the Senior Warden that \$600 would be raised by subscription for this object, if the balance was paid by the Corporation:

Voted: that the Vestry unanimously recommend the Corporation to appropriate \$550 from the funds of the Church, to rebuild the organ.

[Note by the Secretary: that the following vote, passed April 16, 1844, was omitted in place.]

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to give deeds of the pews lately fitted in the gallery, and that the committee for fitting them receive the proceeds.

May 18, 1844. Special Meeting of the Corporation: the Rector and 18 Corporators being present; the Rector in the chair.

The following letter, presented by the Senior Warden, was read.

New York, May 6th, 1844.

J. H. Gilliat, Esq.,

Dear Sir:

I returned to this city early on Saturday morning.

This is the first opportunity I have had to fulfil my promise to write to you. The proposition I made you for a new organ is as follows. To make you a new organ according to description No. 1, to make use of the old case, with the exception of the gilt front pipes, which are too much injured to be put into a new organ. I will put in new ones and gild them. I will also re-gild the ornaments and scrape the case and re-varnish it. I will add to the stops in addition to what will be contained in No. 1, the *Open Diapason and Flute* of your organ. I will pack up the organ and send a man to put it up, you paying the freight of it from New York to Newport. The price including pedal pipes, \$1,150; without the pedal pipes, \$950. But in that case the pedal keys and pedal couple will remain. It is decidedly my opinion it would be throwing away money to repair the organ. I expressed the same opinion ten or twelve years ago, to the late Bishop Griswold. Should you accept my proposition, please have the organ taken apart and send me the case, the open diapason, and the two flutes. My object in having the two flutes is, to pick out the best pipes in both stops, to make one good stop. You perceive by this arrangement the old organ will still remain in Newport. The bellows, action, machinery, and all the stops but three, can be put in a common pine case by some of your mechanics. I suggest that you sell it before it is taken apart, reserving the case, the gilt pipes, the ornaments, the two flutes and open diapason treble, and have them packed up and shipped to me in New York.

Yours Respectfully.

HENRY ERBEN.

P. S. Dr. Wainwright has just left my office. I read to him this letter. He is much pleased with the proposition I make you.

The following pledge from Mr. Gilliat, which was appended to the letter, was also read.

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport:

I am authorized to pledge six hundred dollars, for the rebuilding of the organ by Mr. Erben in the manner specified in

his letter above—on the conditions following: that Mr. Erben is to be the builder; that the organ is to be in all respects equal and similar to the one proposed by Mr. Erben, and entitled No. 1 in his list, and that the present organ is to be given up to the persons who pledge the \$600, that it may be transferred to the lecture room.

J. H. GILLIAT.

Newport, May 16th, 1844.

Voted: that this Corporation do concur in the recommendation of the Vestry, and do request them to decide upon a plan for rebuilding the organ.

Voted; that this Corporation do request the Vestry to appoint proper persons, and make necessary appropriations to carry the above measures into immediate effect.

May 18, 1844. Voted: that the proposition contained in Mr. Erben's letter, and the pledge by Mr. Gilliat, be unanimously accepted.

Voted: that an amount not exceeding \$600 necessary to carry the above vote into effect, be appropriated from funds of the Church.

Voted: that the Senior Warden, Mr. Whitehorne and Mr. Gardner be a committee to contract for the organ, and to carry into effect the vote of this Vestry.

Voted: that George Hall and Isaiah Crooker be a committee to clean the Church thoroughly, and if necessary, to strengthen the floor for the new organ.

The Rector stated that while the Church was being cleaned he should be absent, considering that as part of the vacation stipulated by him.

The meeting was closed with the Apostolic benediction.

June 13, 1844. A special meeting of the Corporation, to receive and act upon a communication from the Rector, resigning his charge; Mr. Gilliat in the chair.

Newport, June 13th, 1844.

To the Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church:

To the unanimous call of Emmanuel Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., to become their Rector, I have, after the most serious deliberation, given my acceptance, subject to the consent of Trinity Church, Newport. Accordingly I now tender to the meeting of this Corporation, here duly convened, the resignation of my office of Rector of Trinity Church, to take effect on and after the 5th Sunday of Trinity, 7th July proximo.

In thus asking your consent to the severance of the sacred official relations between us, I am obeying, I believe, the will of God our Saviour, as indicated by His Providence, and His secret inspirations to my conscience. Permit me, however, to assure you that I have reached this decision at the cost of rending many official attachments and in spite of deep and abiding personal affections to the Church and Congregation of my present charge. To the convictions of duty to the whole Church, however, strengthened by the hope of augmented usefulness, urging me to change the sphere of my ministry, as they are motives of paramount obligation; so they have proved to be of superior force to the persuasions of friendship and the ties of social and religious intimacy, which unite to retain me under our existing relationships. In the hope that your sense of duty and expediency will accord with my own, and in the fervent desire that our mutual love may be unimpaired and perpetuated: I ask you to accept my resignation, and believe me always to be your devoted brother and servant in the bond of Christ.

FRANCIS VINTON,

Rector of Trinity Church.

Voted: that the letter from the Rector be received and entered on the Journal.

Voted: that the resignation of the Rector be accepted.

Voted: that a committee of three, William C. Gibbs, Benjamin Finch and John H. Gilliat, be appointed to prepare an answer to the letter received by this meeting.

Voted: that the above committee shall acquaint the Vestry with their proceedings, and that their answer be recorded in the book of the Corporation.

Voted: that the duty of supplying the pulpit during the vacancy, and of selecting a suitable person for Rector, be referred to the Vestry, who shall have power to appoint a committee from themselves, or the Corporation, for that purpose.

July 3, 1844. Voted: that the following letter to the Rector be recorded, in compliance with the vote of the Corporation:

Newport, June 15th, 1844.

Rev. and Dear Sir:

It has been committed to the undersigned, to signify the acceptance of the resignation tendered by you as Rector to the Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church, Newport.

Your earnest appeal, based upon solemn convictions of duty, has left to that Body no other course.

Called to a more enlarged sphere of usefulness, the prayers of your late people will arise that your ministry may be marked by the same abundant success that has hitherto attended it. The fact that at each celebration of the Holy Communion, partakers have been added at the table of our Lord, until their number is increased by more than one hundred, is the testimony that the Great Head of the Church has given to your labors.

We would also add our testimony, that to the poor you have ever been a most kind friend, to the rich a faithful adviser; and that your public services have uniformly been in strict accordance with the Doctrines, Discipline, Liturgy and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this country.

These facts, reverend and dear sir, will speak from our records, to generations following, of your faithful ministry among us, and of the pain of many hearts at your departure. When we are all gathered to our Father, awaiting that dread account for the privileges of His Church, which must be rendered by each of us, at the Judgment seat of Christ, may our joyful sentence then be, "Come ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Our painful task is ended; it only remains to offer you our sincere respect and best wishes for your future happiness.

J. H. GILLIAT,
BENJ. FINCH.

To the Revd. Francis Vinton.

Voted: that a committee of five, three from the Vestry and two from the Corporation, be appointed to supply the pulpit, during the vacancy, and to select a suitable person for Rector of this Church.

Voted: that John Sterne, David King and Christopher G. Perry, from the Vestry, and William C. Gibbs and Benjamin Finch, from the Corporation, be that committee.

Voted: that the Junior Warden, George Hall and Benjamin Finch be a committee to fix a price for such a lot [in the Churchyard] as is proposed by Mr. [George] Jones, and that they give their answer to him.

Voted: that the Treasurer should keep the papers of the Corporation.

August 13, 1844. Voted: that a collection be taken up on Sunday morning, August 18, for the Bishop's salary; and on the Sunday morning following, one for the Sunday School.

CHAPTER IV.

1844-1846.

August 29, 1844. Special meeting of the Corporation, Christopher G. Perry in the chair.

Mr. John Sterne, of the committee appointed by the Vestry to supply the pulpit during the vacancy and to select a suitable person for Rector, reported verbally, that the Rev. Frederick I. Goodwin had accepted the invitation of the committee, to preach for this Church till a minister should be called, and would be here the next Sunday. He also reported that the Rev. Patrick H. Greenleaf had been highly recommended by Bishop Henshaw, and others, as a suitable person for Rector; and that the committee had called the Corporation together, not for the purpose of making any motion with respect to Mr. Greenleaf, but to submit to them a statement of the fact for their consideration.

Voted: that said report be received.

September 3, 1844. Voted: that a collection be taken on Sunday morning, September 15, for the Bishop's salary; notice of which shall be given the previous Sunday; the first collection for that purpose having been insufficient.

The committee upon a burial lot for Mr. Jones reported that they had fixed on \$200, as the price of such a lot as required by him, and that he had agreed to give that price; which report was received, and the Treasurer was authorized to give a proper deed. The committee were continued to mark the bounds of said lot.

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to hire \$550 to pay the balance due on the organ.

Voted: that the Vestry have heard with feelings of deep regret, of the death of Rev. Salmon Wheaton, D. D., who, for more than thirty years, was the faithful and beloved pastor of this congregation.

Voted: that as a mark of respect for his memory, the Wardens be directed to hang the pulpit and desk in mourning thirty days.

Voted: that the Junior Warden and Mr. Sterne be a committee to forward a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased, and assure them of the condolence and sincere sympathy of the Vestry with them, in this trying dispensation of God's Providence.

Voted: that Mr. Hall be a committee to look at the north-east corner of the Church lot and instruct the Street Commissioner how much of said corner he might take off.

October 15, 1844. Whereas, upon examination there appears to be a grave upon the land recently sold to Mr. Jones:

Voted: that the Wardens be directed to have such grave removed.

Voted: that the Treasurer pay to clergymen supplying the pulpit, such sums as the committee appointed to fill the pulpit shall direct.

Mr. Hall was authorized to purchase a carpet for the organ loft.

November 5, 1844. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation, to elect a Minister.

Present: Christopher G. Perry, George Hall, William V. Taylor, John H. Gilliat, John G. Whitehorne, Christopher Fry, Samuel Westcott, Elliot Boss, John Weeden, D. M. Coggeshall, Benjamin Finch, Edward Stanhope, R. Bluck, Russell Coggeshall, Moses Norman, John Vars, Daniel Goff, David King, John Sterne, Samuel Engs, Isaiah Crooker, Samuel F. Gardner,

William C. Gibbs, Walter Nichols, Henry Bull, Thomas W. Brown, and — Roach.

Christopher G. Perry in the chair.

Voted: that this meeting now proceed to ballot for a Minister.

Two ballots were then taken, with the following result.

1st ballot.		2d ballot.	
Rev. Mr. Greenleaf,	3.	Rev. Mr. Greenleaf,	11.
Rev. Mr. Hall,	5.	Rev. Mr. Hall,	7.
Rev. Mr. Goodwin,	3.	Rev. Mr. McGilton,	3.
Rev. Dr. Smith,	3.	Rev. Dr. Smith,	2.
Rev. Mr. McGilton,	3.	Rev. Mr. Goodwin,	1.
Rev. Mr. Carmichael,	1.	Rev. Mr. Carmichael,	1.

Voted: that this meeting adjourn to Tuesday evening, November 19, at 6.30 o'clock.

November 8, 1844. The Wardens, to whom was assigned the removal of certain remains from the plot of land appropriated to George Jones, Esq., declined serving, for reasons given; whereupon the whole matter was referred to the original committee, with power to act.

November 16, 1844. The above committee reported that they had adjusted the matter to the satisfaction of both parties, and had agreed to sell Mr. Jones — by — feet of ground for \$100; and the Treasurer was authorized to convey to Mr. Jones the exclusive right to use the above-named lot as a private burial place, and for no other purpose; with the right to fence said lot, erect monuments and build vaults thereon, and to do thereon whatever is incidental to depositions of the dead, without let or hindrance by or from any person or persons whatever. And the Treasurer is further authorized, for himself and his successors, to secure to Mr. Jones and his heirs, all these rights and privileges forever.

November 19, 1844. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation.

Voted: that this meeting proceed to elect a Minister.

A vote was then taken, which resulted as follows:

Rev. Mr. Goodwin, 18. Rev. Mr. Hall. 16.

Voted: that the salary of the Minister be fixed at \$1000.

Voted: that the election of Rev. Mr. Goodwin be reconsidered.

Voted: that a committee of six—Messrs. John H. Gilliat, S. Fowler Gardner, Christopher G. Perry, John Sterne, George Hall and William C. Gibbs—be appointed to nominate a candidate at the next meeting.

Voted: that Hon. William Hunter be added as chairman.

The Senior Warden [Mr. John H. Gilliat] then offered his resignation, which was not received.

November 26, 1844. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation.

Hon. William Hunter, as chairman of the committee to whom was referred the nomination of a Minister for the Church, reported the name of Rev. Robert B. Hall, which report was received.

Voted: that the election be made by a call of the house. Ayes, 14; excused, 12; nays, 6.

Voted: that a committee of three, Messrs. Hunter, Gardner and Gibbs, inform Rev. R. B. Hall of his election.

Voted: that the vote of the last Corporation meeting, fixing the salary of the Minister of this Church at \$1000 per annum, be reconsidered.

Voted: that the salary of the Minister of this Church be at the rate of \$1250 per annum.

Voted: that the committee be instructed to inform Rev. R. B. Hall, that it is required by the 6th article of our Charter, that the Minister of this Church shall be instituted Rector, as soon as may be after his election; and therefore it is requested by this Corporation to appoint an early day for his institution.

Voted: that the payment of his salary commence on the day that Mr. Hall arrived to supply the pulpit.

November 27, 1844. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation.

Mr. Hunter, chairman of the committee to inform Rev. R. B. Hall of his election, reported that he had been so informed.

Voted: that Rev. R. B. Hall be informed that this Corporation agrees to his taking a vacation of four weeks during the year, and that during this vacation the pulpit shall be supplied by the Corporation.

December 12, 1844. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation.

Governor Gibbs, for the committee appointed to wait on Rev. R. B. Hall, reported that they had received a communication, which was read, received and ordered to be recorded.

To the Hon. Wm. Hunter, Hon. Wm. C. Gibbs, and Samuel F. Gardner, Esq., Committee of Trinity Church, Newport:

Gentlemen: I beg leave respectfully to announce to you my acceptance of the invitation of the Corporation of Trinity Church, to become their Minister, presented to me through you, on the conditions proposed; and shall hold myself in readiness to be instituted Rector of the same at the earliest day consistent with Canonical usage.

I have endeavored to give to this subject that full and serious consideration which its importance demands, and in forming a decision as to the personal duty, I have not failed to implore Divine illumination and aid.

I have sought also the counsel of the Right Reverend, the Bishop of the Diocese, of my own Diocesan, and of the friends, both clerical and lay, in whom I am accustomed to confide, and have been influenced in no small degree by their advice to the course which I now pursue.

Guided by these lights, I now throw myself on the indulgence of my flock, and solicit the union of their earnest prayers, with mine, that the connection now formed in humble dependence on the Divine benediction, may result in the promotion of the best interest of themselves, and of that mystical body of Christ, which is the blessed company of all faithful people.

Allow me, through you, Gentlemen, to present my Christian

salutations to all the members of your ancient Corporation, and to assure you how sensible I am of the obliging manner in which you have been pleased to communicate their present action.

I am, Gentlemen, with great respect,
Your friend and servant in the Gospel,
R. B. HALL.

Plymouth, Mass., December 6th, 1844.

January 8, 1845. Meeting of the Vestry.

Voted: that the collection taken on Christmas Day, amounting to \$74, together with the interest of the Poor Fund, \$72, be placed in the hands of the Minister, to be distributed by him as follows. [Here is inserted the names of the recipients, and the several amounts they were to receive, as apportioned by the Vestry.] And that the balance, \$54, be given by him to the poor of this Church the ensuing year, at his discretion.*

Voted: that the Treasurer pay that portion of the Bishop's salary due from this Church, whenever called upon by the person authorized to receive it.

The following communication from Mr. Gilliat was read:

Gentlemen: It will be recollected that the remains of the old organ were given to me with the understanding that it was to be repaired and placed in the lecture room. I feel that this understanding morally binds me to place it there, unless released by your vote.

I therefore request that I may be so released, for the reason that the expense to be incurred is greater than any advantage to be derived by the fulfillment of the obligation. The sum proposed by Mr. Erben as an equivalent for the part given by me was, I believe, \$25, and that sum I should of course pay

* THIS custom was followed regularly every year, immediately after New Years, from the time that it was instituted [see page 16]; but as the proceedings were exactly the same from year to year, it has not been thought necessary to insert them.

to the Treasurer of the Corporation, should you comply with my request.

I remain respectfully yours,

J. H. GILLIAT.

Voted: that the communication be received, and that he be released from the promise.

Voted: that the Vestry request the Right Reverend Bishop of this Diocese to admit the Rev. R. B. Hall to Priest's orders and to institute him Rector, as soon as convenient.

February 13, 1845. Meeting of the Vestry.

The chairman [the Junior Warden] reported that in accordance with the vote passed at the last meeting of the Vestry, he had forwarded to the Bishop of the Diocese a copy of the vote passed at that meeting, requesting the Bishop to admit the Rev. R. B. Hall to Priest's orders, and to institute him Rector of this Church, at as early a period as convenient, and that he had received no communication from the Bishop.

The following resolution was passed:

Whereas, no answer to the letter enclosing the vote passed at the last Vestry meeting, in relation to the ordination and institution of the Rev. R. B. Hall, has been received by the chairman from the Bishop, it is probable said letter has miscarried; therefore

Voted: that the chairman be directed to forward to the Bishop another copy of said vote.

Voted: that the Vestry sign the testimonials for the Rev. R. B. Hall, required by the 2d section of the 15th Canon of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Providence, Feby. 26, 1845.

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport;
Gentlemen:

Having received the canonical testimonials in favor

of the Rev. Robert B. Hall, and your certificate of his having been duly elected your Rector, I hereby notify you that, in compliance with your request, it is my intention (D. V.) to admit Mr. Hall to the order of Presbyters, on Wednesday, 12th of March next, and to institute him into the Rectorship of the Parish of Trinity Church, on Thursday, 13th of the same month.

Yours very respectfully,

J. P. K. HENSHAW,

Bp. of Rhode Island.

March 8, 1845. The Senior Warden stated to the Vestry, that he should be absent from town at the institution of the Rev. Mr. Hall, and that it would be necessary to appoint someone to serve in his place.

Voted: that Dr. King and S. Fowler Gardner be a committee to make arrangements for the institution of the Rector.

March 24, 1845. Annual Meeting; Christopher G. Perry in the chair.

The following officers were elected:

S. Fowler Gardner,³⁰ *Senior Warden*.

Christopher G. Perry, *Junior Warden*.

George Hall, John Sterne, William V. Taylor, David King, Henry Bull, John Vars, John H. Gilliat, George Jones, Samuel Wescott, Edward Stanhope and Walter Nichols, *Vestrymen*.

³⁰ SAMUEL FOWLER GARDNER, who at the time of his death held the office of Senior Warden, lost his life at the burning of the Ocean House, in August, 1845. With others, he was assisting in removing the furniture and the baggage of guests, when a portion of the building fell in, carrying him with it. He was a man of inestimable worth in the community, which was greatly shocked by his terrible death. He was President of the Bank of Rhode Island, of which institution he had formerly been Cashier, and was largely engaged in the manufacture of cotton,—in fact, had the management of all the cotton factories, and there were a number of them at the time in Newport. His wife was Harriet Fowler, daughter of Christopher Fowler, to whom he was married June 20, 1816. Of his children but one, a daughter, is now living. Mrs. Gardner died in August, 1867.

John Sterne,⁸¹ *Treasurer*.

Walter Nichols, *Secretary*.

George Taylor, *Organist*.

S. Gladding, *Sexton*.

June 2, 1845. Meeting of the Vestry.

Voted: that the bell now in the cupola of the School House be given to the new church [Holy Cross] in Middletown.

Voted: that the Sunday School have permission to alter the small room in the School House, they meeting the expense.

Voted: that the recommendation of the Bishop, in relation to weekly contributions, be complied with; and that the time for carrying the same into effect be left to the discretion of the Rector.

Voted: that a committee of two, the Senior Warden and Mr. Gilliat, be appointed from the Vestry, to act with the Rector in distributing the funds so collected.

July 31, 1845. Voted: that the Treasurer be a committee to ascertain when the organ was taken down, where it was replaced; and that he pay at the rate of \$5 per month for the piano while it was in use.

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to hire a sum not exceeding \$300, for present contingencies, and that he dispose of the mortgage held by the Church, as soon as may be, at his discretion, to pay the same.

The Treasurer was to pay the Church's proportion of the expenses of the State Convention; and the Wardens were to

⁸¹ JOHN STERNE, born December 16, 1788, married Maria Thurston, daughter of John, December 11, 1811, and died October 11, 1853. He was General Treasurer of this State from 1832 to 1840, with the exception of one year; was also Cashier of the Newport Exchange Bank for several years, and was the faithful and trusted Treasurer of Trinity Church; a good and worthy man, who died respected and honored by all who knew him.

Mrs. Sterne, born January 5, 1790, died October 9, 1849.

make application to the Town Council, for liberty to place chains in Church street to prevent the noise of carriages during services.

August 21, 1845. Special meeting of the Corporation to fill vacancies. The Rector in the chair.

Voted: that John H. Gilliat be *Senior Warden*.

Dr. Christopher G. Perry then resigned as Junior Warden.

Voted: that Dr. Perry's resignation be accepted.

Voted: that Walter Nichols be the *Junior Warden*.

Moses Norman and Thomas W. Brown were elected to fill vacancies in the Vestry.

Voted: that in case the application to Mr. Erben, relative to the organ, be not complied with within one month from this time, that the Senior Warden and George Jones be a committee to have it put in order.

January 13, 1846. Voted: that the vote of this Vestry, October 3, 1843, authorizing the sale of those pews on which the taxes were unpaid, continue in full force, and that the Junior Warden govern himself accordingly.

April 13, 1846. Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

The following officers were elected:

John H. Gilliat, *Senior Warden*.

Walter Nichols, *Junior Warden*.

Messrs. Moses Norman, Benjamin Finch, Thomas W. Brown and Christopher G. Perry filled vacancies in the Vestry.

The following communication from the Rector was read:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: As I am unhappily prevented by indisposition from attending your meeting today, I take the present method of communicating to you some suggestions, deemed by me of importance to the best interests of the Parish, which I affectionately commend to your favorable consideration.

These suggestions respect the simplification and increased

efficiency of our offertory system. Since the introduction of the primitive and apostolic plan of collections, we have had great reason to be gratified with its operation. Its general influence has been salutary and the results as satisfactory as was anticipated. But the present arrangement devolves a very considerable responsibility on your Committee, who are charged with the distribution of the funds collected. By their report, it will appear that they have proceeded in appropriating to objects for the most part such as have heretofore received the charities of the people. Necessarily, however, the result of their action can only be known at long intervals to the contributors. As a natural consequence, therefore, it may be expected that the stream of benevolence will not flow as copiously or regularly, as when some definite and tangible object is announced beforehand; and each contributor is precisely informed of the destination of his money. Objects of a domestic character ever appeal more promptly to our sympathies, and when our charities are applied within our view, we have the advantage of all the encouragement arising from their good effect, and are stimulated to more cheerful and enlarged action.

It has occurred to me, that it will be well to try the experiment of concentrating our efforts for the ensuing year upon home objects, with the hope of enlisting each one of us in the noble work of charity, and in a manner satisfactory to all; and surely there is enough to be done around us, to excite our energies, and to reward our best efforts.

The want of Church accommodations for the poor has been felt by me to be an evil, from my earliest connection with the Parish, and is, I believe, universally allowed to be such. The impression seems to prevail with this class of our fellow citizens, that there is neither room for them, nor are they welcome in Trinity Church; at least, that we are at no pains to furnish them with the requisite facilities for worship. I am sure this impression is unfounded, so far as your disposition is concerned, and however unreasonable it may be, we can only regret that it exists. It appears to me that we can do a noble work, in taking away all *seeming* occasion for such a reproach, and benefit

ourselves while blessing others. I propose, therefore, the following plan, as simple and feasible, by which we may meet the necessities of those who may be disposed to worship with us, and also a numerous class who must be deprived of the holy ordinances of the Church, unless they are carried to their very doors. I have learned that the south gallery of the Church has been filled with pews by a Committee who hold them until they are reimbursed for their expenditure, by sales and rents, when the pews undisposed of become the property of the Corporation. I would suggest, therefore, that the requisite sum be appropriated from the offertory, to rent this gallery from the Committee and occupants, and to open it as free to all who choose to avail themselves of this privilege. In this way we may furnish nearly a hundred sittings; and while we do a work of charity to others, we shall gradually extinguish an obligation of the Corporation to the Committee referred to, and hasten the time when they shall revert to that body.

I propose this as an experiment; not doubting, however, that many will avail themselves of this privilege; at any rate, deeming it of no small consequence, that we should honestly do what lies in our power to wipe out the unjust prejudice which, in the popular mind, adheres to us, as to the Church at large, of being exclusive, and the Church of the rich rather than of the poor. A sum not larger than one hundred dollars will probably be required for the accomplishment of this design. But there is still a larger class of our community who will need to be reached by the blessed influence of the Gospel and the Church, in a more direct way. They need to be searched out, and to have all the privileges brought to their hearths. I refer, especially, to residents on the "Point," so called, where I am credibly informed, and am assured by observations likewise, that large numbers of families live without the means of grace; and that many more, if they receive any religious instruction, are at least deprived of the superior advantages of our own venerable and Apostolic Church. I am exceedingly desirous that a remedy should be provided for this necessity, and I can think of no better way than to establish in the midst of this

population a chapel of our own, or a missionary under the direction of your Rector. To accomplish this will require one-half of the whole amount of the offertory for the present year; and with this sum I have no doubt that regular services may be maintained, and all the benefits which our religion bestows may be presented to that people, to the promotion of morality, of temporal relief and the salvation of the soul. Should a suitable man be procured, under the blessing of God, results will follow which will greatly gladden our own hearts, as well as to cause many to arise and call us blessed. By the adoption of any prosecution of plans like these, your influence as a parish will be greatly increased in the community; we shall be fulfilling our mission as the friends and benefactors of those who have none to help them, and act consistently with the dignity of one of the most venerable and ancient congregations of the American Church. From the remainder of the collections we can, as now, appropriate \$50, for the payment of the Bishop's salary; \$75, to the improvement and support of music, fulfil our obligation already incurred in a mission to the West, give a gratuity to the Sunday School, besides retaining a sufficient sum for the poor of our own communion.

I have thus, Gentlemen, sketched to you an outline of a plan for the distribution of our collections, which I trust will commend itself to you, as it does to me, as free from most of the objections which embarrass all charitable operations: and which possesses the singular advantage of an exclusive domestic character. Whatever you do in accordance with this recommendation, you do for yourselves as well as others. You relieve the Corporation of an obligation, assist in the payment of your own necessary expenses, pursue measures which tend to the augmentation of the dignity and reputation of the Parish, assume a new aspect before the community, to the honor of the Church at large, and not only set an example worthy of being followed, but become the instrument of conferring blessings upon the poor and needy, which can only be appreciated in eternity.

For myself I can only say, that the present design has been long a favorite theme of serious deliberation, and that your approbation of it will be a source of the highest satisfaction.

I commend it, and you, to the patronage and favor of the Great Head of the Church, and with hearty prayers for the highest prosperity of the Parish.

I am affectionately,

Your Rector and friend,

R. B. HALL.

Easter Monday, 1846.

Voted: that this Corporation cordially unite in the recommendation made by the Rector, in his letter of this date, and trust that he will make arrangements to put the plan into immediate execution.

Voted: that John H. Gilliat, John Sterne, Christopher G. Perry and Walter Nichols, be delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

Voted: that the Junior Warden confer with the committee on pews in the South Gallery, and report to the Rector.

April 28, 1846. Voted: that the Senior Warden settle with Mr. Taylor [the organist] for the use of his piano while the organ was down.

July 7, 1846. The Junior Warden made the following report in relation to the sale of pews:

"On the 9th of May I sold at auction, agreeable to the provisions of the Charter, and the vote of the Vestry, pews No. 81 and 83 on the lower floor, and No. 10 in the North Gallery. No. 81 was bought by Capt. William [V.] Taylor. No. 83 was bid in for the Corporation, as also was No. 10 in the gallery. By a subsequent arrangement with the Vestry, the owner of the last named pew was allowed to retain it, and it will be in his possession after the present term for which it was let has expired."

The report was received and ordered to be recorded.

Voted: that the Treasurer pay the proportion of expenses of the State Convention due from this Church.

Voted: that the Treasurer ascertain what was the whole cost of fitting the pews in the South Gallery, what amount has been received, what dues there are and from whom, for rents, &c., and what amount would be required to settle the claims of the committee, and bring them into the possession of the Church.

September 1, 1846. Voted: that the wall pew, No. 17, be given up by the Corporation, for the purpose of erecting a fount.

October 29, 1846. Special meeting of the Corporation, when the following letter from the Rector was read:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church, Newport;
Gentlemen:

In the Providence of God, I have been elected Rector of St. James Church, in the city of Roxbury, in the Diocese of Massachusetts, and their call has been presented to me under such circumstances that I deem it my duty to accept it.

This invitation, entirely unsolicited on my part, comes to me as the expression of the unanimous voice of that Vestry and Parish; and this fact, together with a location in a climate more congenial with my constitution, joined with other favorable prospects of usefulness, induces me to accede to their request.

I find myself consequently prepared to tender to you my resignation of office as Rector of Trinity Church; and I respectfully request you to accept the same, to take effect on the 22d Sunday after Trinity, Novr. 8th.

In taking this step, I but anticipate the accomplishment of a resolution, taken some time since, in view of the state of my health, which has been so disastrously affected during my residence here, and which would render a longer continuance in my present station irreconcilable with my convictions of duty as regards myself, my family, and the Church of God.

You will believe me to be duly sensible of the sacredness of the relation, which I now ask you to sever, and I should not venture to propose such an act, were I not fully convinced of its propriety, in the light of the reasons now assigned. But under the circumstances I am persuaded that you will unite with

me in the opinion of the expediency of dissolving the connection which has existed between us, and I earnestly hope that the event will result in the honor of God, and promote the prosperity of the Kingdom of the Redeemer.

Allow me, Gentlemen, to assure you, individually and collectively, of my deep and abiding interest in your present and future welfare, and to subscribe myself,

Your friend and Rector,

ROBT. B. HALL.

Newport, October 29th, 1846.

Voted: that this Corporation accede to the wishes of the Rector.

Voted: that the Junior Warden call a special meeting of the Corporation, on Thursday next, at 3 o'clock p. m.

Voted: that a committee, Dr. King and W. C. Gibbs, be appointed to reply to the letter of the Rector, and inform him of the vote of this meeting.

CHAPTER V.

1846-1855.

November 5, 1846. Special meeting of the Corporation; Governor Gibbs in the chair.

Voted: that the salary of the Minister of this Church shall be fixed at \$1000.

A communication from John H. Gilliat was received, resigning his office as Senior Warden, and his resignation was accepted. Mr. Edward King was elected Senior Warden till Easter next.

Voted: that all money collected at the offertory, not otherwise appropriated by the Corporation, or by those individuals who contributed to it, and also all balances left from taxes on pews, be placed in charge of the Treasurer of said Trinity Church, who is hereby authorized to invest the same as a permanent fund until it amounts to \$5000, for the sole purpose of defraying the expenses which will necessarily occur in repairing said Church.

Voted: that the Senior Warden fill the pulpit during the vacancy; and that he pay any sum not exceeding \$20 each Sunday, for services of ministers officiating.

Voted: that the meeting now proceed to elect a Minister for this Church.

Rev. Mr. [Darius R.] Brewer was nominated. The first ballot: yeas, 14; nays, 1. A second ballot was taken: Rev. D. R. Brewer, 15; Rev. Mr. Nichols, 1; blanks, 4.

The Junior Warden and Mr. Benjamin Finch were appointed a committee to inform Mr. Brewer of his election.

November 19, 1846. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation.

Voted: that the call from this Corporation to Mr. Brewer be considered unanimous.

Voted: that the communication from this Corporation to Rev. R. B. Hall be entered on the journal.

A letter from Rev. D. R. Brewer, accepting the call of the Corporation, was read.

Voted: that the correspondence of the committee with Rev. D. R. Brewer, be recorded.

Newport, Oct. 30th, 1846.

Rev. Robert B. Hall;

Reverend Sir:

As a Committee appointed by the Corporation of Trinity Church, at their meeting, 29th Oct., it is our painful duty to reply to your letter of resignation of the office of Rector. While we sincerely and deeply regret that the consideration of our ungenial climate, and other circumstances, should have caused the necessity of your separation from us, we take pleasure in expressing to you our grateful feelings for your diligent labors in our behalf, for your eloquent and masterly expositions of religious truth, and for the kindness and sympathy which you have extended to the members of your Parish. It has been your lot during a portion of your sojourn with us, to have been afflicted with a severe attack of illness. During that period it was the pleasure of some of your Congregation to visit and to sympathize with you, and to mark the unwavering faith which enabled you to sustain the extreme suffering incident to your disease. The important truths which you have enforced from the pulpit, have been amply illustrated by your holiness of life. The impressions you have made on the minds of many will continue to exert a salutary influence, though they shall cease to hear your voice, or to be inspired by your presence. You have left behind you words and thoughts destined to exert a trans-

forming power over the characters and hearts of those to whom, while you were here, you were bound by the strongest attachments. You have exercised nobly the duties of your noble office; by consoling those who were weighted down by sorrow, by extending your benevolence to the poor and forgotten, by awakening in your congregation a sense of their privileges and duties, and withdrawing their attention from the realities of life to the fact of other and higher spheres of existence.

This retrospect, of the great and eminent services, rendered to us in the course of your ministry here, cannot fail to awaken in us the deepest gratitude and affection. Be assured, that in leaving us, you carry with you the kindest sympathies of our hearts, that you are accompanied with our sincere wishes and prayers, that God may deal kindly with you and yours.

With feelings of esteem and affection,

DAVID KING,

W. C. GIBBS.

Newport, Nov. 6th, 1846.

Rev. D. R. Brewer,

Rev. and dear Sir:

A special meeting of the Corporation of Trinity Church, was held on Thursday, Nov. 5th, at which time it was voted that said Corporation proceed to elect a Minister for said Church. The only person who received a nomination was yourself, and on the first ballot you were elected; but owing to a misapprehension on the part of some, and for the satisfaction of all, a second vote was taken, with the following result: Rev. D. R. Brewer, 15; Rev. Mr. Nichols, 1, and 4 blank votes were cast. The whole number present was 23. The salary was fixed before going into an election, at \$1000. It may be proper to state, that those who cast blank votes declared themselves friendly to you, but wished to postpone the decision of the question for a few days.

It was made the duty of the undersigned to invite you, in accordance with the wishes of this Corporation, as above expressed, to accept the office of Minister of this Church; and while we assure you that you have the kindest feelings of all

who compose our Body, and that they would at a former period have made the same selection, had you allowed them to consider you a candidate, we hope that you will, after due reflection, conclude to accept the call which we now make; as we are individually satisfied that your ministry will be acceptable to all, and by God's help, may greatly tend to the prosperity of this branch of the visible Church.

Our meeting stands adjourned to Thursday, Nov. 19th, and if possible you will please answer this before that time, and accept our individual and united assurance of respect and friendship.

BENJ. FINCH,
WALTER NICHOLS,
Committee for the Corporation.

Concord, N. H., Nov. 11th, 1846.

Messrs. Bēnj. Finch and Walter Nichols,
Committee for Corporation of Trinity Church;
Gentlemen:

The request with which the Corporation of Trinity Church in Newport has seen fit to honor me, to become the Rector of that venerable Parish, has received a careful, and, I may add, an anxious consideration. On some accounts it has seemed doubtful whether I ought to leave my present station for the purpose of occupying another, where I may not prove a useful and successful laborer. But with much fear and distrust (not of your Parish, whose charitable judgment and deeds I have before experienced, but of my own abilities), I have decided to make the attempt, and accept your call. May He, without whom nothing is strong or profitable, bless this undertaking, to the advancement of His glory and the prosperity of the Church.

I shall not be able to commence my labors in Newport before the first Sunday in December; if that time should be agreeable to yourselves, I shall then be happy, God being my helper, to enter upon the work of the ministry in your Parish.

With true regard,

DARIUS RICHMOND BREWER.

December 8, 1846. Voted, at a Vestry meeting: that the Junior Warden make, or employ some person to make, a catalogue of books in the Rector's library, and that said catalogue be recorded on the journal.

April 5, 1847. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 19 Corporators being present. William Hunter in the chair.

The following officers were elected:

Edward King, *Senior Warden*.

Walter Nichols, *Junior Warden*.

Benjamin Finch, John Sterne, William V. Taylor, David King, Henry Bull, Thomas W. Brown, Edward Stanhope, Moses Norman, Samuel Engs, Benjamin A. Mason, M. C. Slocum, *Vestrymen*.

Benjamin A. Mason, *Treasurer*.

William Cornell, *Secretary*.

Samuel Gladding, *Sexton*.

The election of organist and the whole direction of the music was left with the Vestry.

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention: John H. Gilliat, John Sterne, Walter Nichols and Edward King.

Voted: that the vote of November 5, 1846, relating to the offertory, be repealed.

Voted: that the weekly offertory be hereafter appropriated according to the recommendation of the Bishop, in his Pastoral letter; and that the Minister and Wardens be a committee for that purpose.

Voted: that the Rev. Mr. Brewer be requested to appoint an early day for his institution as Rector, according to the 6th section of our Charter.

Voted: that the Wardens be a committee to wait upon Mr. Brewer, and inform him of the passage of this resolution, and to make the necessary arrangements to carry the same into effect.

Voted: that the Vestry be authorized to take the best means of heating the Church, and to draw on the Treasurer for any expenditure that may thereby be incurred.

Voted: that a committee of three, Benjamin Finch, Edward King and Samuel Engs, be appointed to assess \$800 upon individuals in the Corporation, in addition to the tax upon pews, to meet any deficiency that may arise in the current receipts of the year.

April 8, 1847. Voted: that this Vestry decline letting this room [the Church school-house] for a day school.

Voted: that Henry Bull, Benjamin Finch and M. C. Slocum be a committee to obtain information relating to heating the Church by furnaces, and report at a future meeting.

April 13, 1847. George Taylor was appointed organist, with a salary of \$150, and Isaac Silsbee was engaged as Chorister, at a salary of \$100.

June 22, 1847. Meeting of the Corporation.

Voted: that the pew tax be so increased as to raise an additional sum of \$800 for the present year, and that a committee, John Sterne, M. C. Slocum and Edward King, apportion this tax, by a valuation of the pews in the Church.

Voted: that a committee, William Hunter, William C. Gibbs and M. C. Slocum, ascertain whether the Permanent Fund can be applied to the repairs of the Church building, what repairs are necessary, together with the cost of the same, and the most proper time for such repairs; to report at a future meeting.

Voted: that the Town's Committee have leave to withdraw their application for the use of the Church on July 3.

The request of the Redwood Library Company, for the use of the Church on their approaching anniversary, was also denied.

June 24, 1847. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation; Governor Gibbs in the chair.

The committee appointed to amend the 5th section of the Charter, made the following report, which was read and adopted:

“An Act in amendment of the Charter of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I.

“Section 1st. It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows: That each owner of a pew in Trinity Church, Newport, who professes to worship in the Protestant Episcopal Church, shall be a member of said Corporation, and shall be entitled to vote, either in person or by proxy, in all Corporation meetings; and that in all such meetings not less than fifteen members shall form a quorum for the transaction of any business.

“Section 2d. That all special meetings of said Corporation shall be called by reading in said Church public notice thereof, on the Sunday next before any such meeting, and not less than four days previous thereto, which notice shall state generally the business to be transacted.

“Section 3d. That the 5th Section of said Charter, and all in alteration or amendment thereof be, and the same are hereby, repealed.”

Voted: that Mr. Edward King be a committee to get an Act passed by the Legislature of this State, in accordance with the provisions of this report.

The committee to value the pews and apportion the sum of \$800 made report of their doings, which report was received and adopted.

Voted: that one half of the assessment now levied be collected July 1st and the remainder on the 1st of the following January.

June 30, 1847. The resignation of Isaac Silsbee as chorister was received by the Vestry, and it was voted that he be paid \$25 for his past services.

Voted: that the Treasurer hire \$200 on the credit of this

Corporation, at such time as the treasury, in his discretion, requires it.

July 15, 1847. Special meeting of the Corporation; William C. Gibbs in the chair.

The resignation of Benjamin A. Mason, as Treasurer, was received, and John Sterne was elected Treasurer till next Easter.

Voted: that the Vestry have power to remit taxes on pews, where the owners or occupants are unable to pay.

July 23, 1847. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation; Dr. David King in the chair.

Mr. John Sterne having declined to act as Treasurer, William Cornell was elected in his place. Mr. Cornell was also elected 10th Vestryman, in place of Benjamin A. Mason, resigned.

November 26, 1847. Voted by the Vestry: that all bills hereafter presented to this Vestry for payment, shall be endorsed, if correct, by the person who contracts them. James Demarest was elected to sing in the choir and to be allowed \$50 a year for his services. Henry Bull was to see that the Sunday School was supplied with fuel, and \$25 was appropriated for dressing the Church at Christmas.

February 17, 1848. Voted: that the vote of this Vestry, October 3, 1843, respecting the sale of pews on which the taxes remained unpaid, and all other votes of this Vestry relative to the same, be repealed.

Voted: that the Junior Warden be directed to proceed with all those who are delinquent in the payment of pew taxes, agreeably to the provisions of the 9th section of the Charter.

April 17, 1848. Voted: that the Junior Warden proceed in the most summary manner, to collect the taxes now due on pews No. 3, 7, 11, 79 and 93, on the lower floor.

April 24, 1848. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 22 Corporators being present. Dr. David King in the chair.

The following officers were elected:

Edward King, *Senior Warden*.

John H. Cozzens, *Junior Warden*.

Benjamin Finch, John Sterne, David King, Henry Bull, Thomas W. Brown, Samuel Engs, M. C. Slocum, William Cornell, Walter Nichols, George C. Mason, John N. Potter, *Vestrymen*.

William Cornell, *Treasurer*.

Walter Nichols, *Secretary*.

George Taylor, *Organist*, with salary at \$200.

Samuel Gladding, *Sexton*, salary \$100.

William C. Gibbs, John Sterne, Walter Nichols and Thomas W. Brown, delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

Voted: that the sum of \$1500 be assessed as a tax upon the pews for the year; and that it shall be levied according to their relative value, and collected semi-annually, April 1st and October 1st; Mr. Finch, Mr. Sterne and Mr. Nichols to apportion the tax.

Voted: that \$100 be appropriated to the choir, for the year, to be expended under the direction of the Wardens.

Voted: that the Senior Warden and Secretary act with the Minister in the disposal of Sunday offerings.

Voted: that William C. Gibbs, Henry Bull and John B. Weeden be a committee to consider the expediency of heating the Church with furnaces, and to make an estimate of the expense thereof; the committee to report at a future meeting of the Corporation.

June 10, 1848. Special meeting of the Corporation; 24 Corporators being present. Dr. King in the chair.

The committee appointed to consider the expediency of heating the Church with a furnace, made a favorable report, and estimated the expense at \$350 or \$400.

Voted: that the further consideration of the question be postponed for the present year.

The following communication from the Minister was read:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

The Minister of Trinity Church respectfully submits to the consideration of the Corporation, the following statement of reasons for abolishing the practice of owning pews as private property in the House of God.

1. This practice was entirely unknown for the first fifteen hundred years of the Christian Church, and has not been common more than two hundred years.

2. It has had the effect of bringing into the House of God, distinctions and separations, which are out of place *there*, however necessary and proper they may be elsewhere.

3. It has excluded from the Sanctuary many families and individuals, who are unable to purchase or hire pews: thereby violating the word of Christ, that the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

4. It has turned the House of God into a house of merchandise, and desecrated the Holy Place with auctions, and other kinds of traffic in pews.

5. There are many persons here and elsewhere, who wish to abandon the modern pew system, and to restore the primitive plan of free churches, sustained by voluntary subscriptions and offerings; and unless Trinity Church is made free, an effort will be made to build another church, upon that principle; in which case this Parish would lose some members, and also the honor and "good report" of doing this work.

In view of these facts, the undersigned hopes that the Corporation will adopt measures to make Trinity Church, at once and for ever, free to all people.

Your friend and Pastor,
D. RICHMOND BREWER.

Newport, June 10th, 1848.

Voted: that the communication from the Minister be recorded

on the journal, and any action upon it be indefinitely postponed.

Voted: that William C. Gibbs, Benjamin Finch and Walter Nichols be a committee to settle any difficulty which may have been occasioned by the sale of pews at auction, on the 22d of May; and that said committee have full power to act for the Corporation in such manner as shall best effect the purpose for which they are appointed.

September 26, 1848. Voted by the Vestry: that George Hall be a committee to repair the steeple, and paint such parts of the building as he may think necessary.

Voted: that Walter Nichols be a committee to have the stoves put up and the pipes altered; according to the plan reported by him to this meeting.

October 3, 1848. Messrs. George Hall and John B. Weeden reported to the Vestry, that on further examination of the steeple, they find it in very bad condition; and that the expense of repairing it would greatly exceed their first estimate.

Voted: that further repairs on the steeple be for the present suspended, and that the whole matter be referred to the Corporation.

October 13, 1848. Special meeting of the Corporation.

Mr. Hall reported to the meeting the condition of the steeple, and moved the postponement of repairs.

Voted: that further repairs on the steeple be postponed till Easter next.

Voted: that the Vestry have full power to lease the lot of land belonging to the Church [bounded on Catharine and Beach streets and Greenough Place] on the best terms they can make; and that the annual payment for the same shall not be less than \$100. Henry Bull and M. C. Slocum were a committee to receive applications for the same, and to report to the Vestry.

November 6, 1848. Voted: that M. C. Slocum be authorized

to lease the lot of land belonging to the Church, for a term of 999 years, on the best terms that can be made, at a rent of not less than \$100 per year.

Voted: that it is not expedient to let the School House to Dr. Wood, for a singing school.

Voted: that Dr. King be a committee to draw up and present resolutions to the Minister of this Church, expressing the sympathy of this Vestry for his late bereavement.

These resolutions were presented and adopted:

“Whereas, the family of our Pastor has been visited by repeated illness, and by the death of his only child;

“Resolved: that we are deeply impressed by this dispensation of Divine Providence, and that we sincerely sympathize with our afflicted Pastor and his family, in their severe affliction.

“Resolved: that we feel ourselves powerless to give consolation to this afflicted family, and that we can only mingle our prayers with theirs, that this melancholy event may be overruled for their and our good.

“Resolved: that, appreciating the uniform kindness of our Pastor, and his unremitting exertions in our behalf, and aware of the anxiety he has lately undergone, and of the unutterable sorrow which must now oppress him, we recommend to him a vacation of several weeks, from the arduous duties of his office.

“Resolved: that the resolutions be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of this meeting, and be transmitted to our beloved Pastor.”

EDWARD KING, Chairman.

WALTER NICHOLS, Secretary.

Newport, Nov. 7th, 1848.

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen:

I have received the resolutions which were passed at your meeting on the 6th inst. and sincerely thank you for them. They express feelings of kindness and sympathy, which at this

time are especially gratifying to me. May the severe affliction which has fallen upon me, teach me how to minister consolation to others, and make me more devoted to the duties of my office, and thus be productive of good results to yourselves and the whole congregation entrusted to my charge.

I gratefully accept the offer of a vacation, and hope to return to my labors with renewed strength and fresh earnestness. I propose leaving this week, to be absent three Sundays.

Your friend and Pastor,

D. R. BREWER.

December 5, 1848. Voted: that the request of Colored People for the School House be not granted:

Voted: that pews No. 7 and 8, North Gallery, be made free, and that the first seven pews in that gallery, beginning with No. 2, be distinctly marked "Free."

Voted: that the tax on the two pews in the South Gallery, hired by the Rector, be remitted.

February 1, 1849. Special meeting of the Corporation.

The following communication from Rev. Mr. Brewer was read:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church, in Newport, R. I.

Gentlemen: As I have been unable, for two months past, to discharge the duties of my office as Minister of Trinity Church, and as I am informed by a physician that it may require two months longer to effect my recovery, and the interest of the Parish may suffer through so long a deprivation of complete pastoral care, I herewith, with great regret, tender to you my resignation of my pastoral office.

With sincere wishes for the prosperity of the Church, and thanks for many tokens of kindness bestowed on me while officiating as your Minister, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

D. RICHMOND BREWER.

Dorchester, Mass., Jany. 22, 1849.

On motion the following resolution was passed.

Resolved: that we hear with feelings of deep regret, of the continued indisposition of our Minister.

Resolved: that while we deeply sympathize with him in his affliction, we must unanimously decline his resignation, now offered to this meeting: hoping, in the Providence of God, that he may soon be restored to health and enabled to resume his labors for this Church; and assuring him that as a Corporation we appreciate too highly his pastoral connection with us to allow it to be thus briefly and suddenly broken.

Resolved: that Messrs. John H. Gilliat and Dr. King be a committee to communicate these resolutions to Rev. Mr. Brewer.

April 8, 1849. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 21 Corporators present. Dr. King in the chair.

Marshall C. Slocum was elected *Senior Warden*, in place of Edward King, resigned, and William V. Taylor took the place of Mr. Slocum in the Vestry.

No other change was made in the officers of the Church.

A tax of \$1500 was assessed, to be apportioned the same as on the previous year, and to be collected in the same manner.

The Senior Warden and the Secretary were to act with the Minister, in the disposal of Sunday offerings.

Voted: that a vacation of six weeks be allowed the Minister during the year.

Report of the Committee of April 8th, 1849, to examine the Church, and ascertain what repairs were needed, and whether any funds belonging to the Church could be applied to that purpose; laid before the Corporation April 14th and ordered to be recorded.

The Committee respectfully report, that they have examined the condition of the Church building, and find that extensive repairs are required on the steeple. They have estimated the expense of the repairs required at \$600. Having consulted two

different painters, they find that the sum of \$700 will be required for that purpose.

The Committee were requested to ascertain if any funds in the hands of the Church were disposable for this purpose. The property of the Church consists of, 1st, Real Estate: the Church building, the Church School House, and the lot for the support of the clergyman, given to the Corporation by Nathaniel Norton.

2d. Personal Estate. The Permanent Fund consists of 78 shares in the R. I. Union Bank, 14 shares in the Newport Bank, 10 shares in the Bank of Rhode Island, and 10 shares in the Merchants Bank.

3d. The Poor Fund consists of 8 shares in the R. I. Union Bank, and 8 additional shares transferred by the Vestry, August 5th, 1840, from what your Committee believe to have been the Kay property.

4th. The Church Fund consisting of — amounting to \$1500.

Of this property your Committee believe that none can be properly applied to the repairs of the building. The Church Fund they consider as a portion of the Kay property; and they also consider the eight shares in the R. I. Union Bank, transferred from the Church Fund, August 5th, 1840, to the Poor Fund, as a portion of the Kay Fund; especially since the Corporation, in 1822, appropriated \$1000 of the Kay property for the purpose of paying a note at the R. I. Union Bank, and of benefitting the Poor Fund.

Your Committee will proceed somewhat in detail as to the course the Corporation have heretofore pursued with regard to the disposal of the Kay property. Your Committee report that Nathaniel Kay, who died the 14th of April, 1734, left by will to the Ministers, Vestry and Wardens, for the time being, of Trinity Church, £400 New England currency, to build a School House; and also bequeathed his dwelling house and coach house, and several lots of land in Newport, "in trust and confidence," and to the intent and purpose, benefit and use of a school to teach ten poor boys their grammar and the mathematics gratis, and to appoint a Master at all times, as occasion or vacancy may happen, who shall be Episcopally ordained, and assist the Minister Episcopal in some proper office as they shall think most

useful. The dwelling house of said Kay and about 8 acres of adjoining land were leased for 999 years, in January, 1796, to Richard Harrison, of New York, on condition of his paying to the Minister, Church Wardens, Vestry and their successors, annually the sum of 300 silver dollars of the American States; or silver bullion equal thereto. In September, 1830, the Church received from the Executors of Richard Harrison, Esq., \$1200, on condition of their being released of their obligation arising from the above mentioned lease: the Minister, Church Wardens and Vestry re-entering into possession of the property. In 1833 the Ministers, Wardens and Vestry of the Church leased the property to George Engs, for 999 years, on condition of his paying into their hands \$3300. The lots of land bequeathed by Nathaniel Kay, Esq., besides the above mentioned, were the lots in the south part of the Town. They were sold on leases of 999 years, except lots 6, 7, 8 and 9, in 1805, to John [G.] Whitehorne. Those excepted were sold on deeds to Daniel Ginnedo, Charles Gyles, William Howard, Arnold Hiscox, and William Wilder, for the sum of \$1200. A part of the proceeds, together with \$300 rent from the Kay estate, were invested in the Bliss lot, in September 1805, consisting of $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres, at \$139 per acre. The deed for this lot of land was recorded 25th of September, 1805, in No. 9 Book of Records, pp. 447-8. The Bliss lot was leased for 999 years, in 1822, to Arnold Wilbur, for \$1000. The £400 given by Mr. Kay, were expended in 1740 in erecting the school house and house for the school-master, probably on one of Mr. Kay's lots.

The rents accruing from the Kay property were for a long period faithfully employed in carrying out the charitable intentions of the donor. The plan was interrupted at first by difficulties in collecting the rents, and in obtaining a suitable school-master, who by the will was to be Episcopally ordained. The importance of this charitable fund, fully realized by the Vestry which first received it in trust, we have reason to believe ceased gradually to be felt by the Vestries of the Church. His plan was to educate in the principles of the Episcopal Church, ten poor scholars. He undoubtedly estimated the revenues of the various properties he bequeathed to the Church as not likely to

educate more than ten poor scholars. But it must be evident, that if the revenues of his generous charity had been strictly devoted to their original destination, incalculable good would have been produced; or if they had been allowed to accumulate, from the period at which the trust was accepted by the Wardens and Vestry of this Church till the present time, they would have constituted a magnificent endowment for a high school—a school which would have contributed to the prosperity of the Town, as well as the prosperity of the Church. But viewed in any way, and even limited to the education of ten poor scholars, this donation of Nathaniel Kay was a trust, and not a property given unconditionally to any Vestry of this Church. It was placed in the hands of the first Vestry in “confidence” that they would transmit it unimpaired, to the succeeding Vestry, binding that Vestry by a similar obligation to transmit it to their successors, and so on to the end of time. This fund, like all charitable funds, belonged to the poor. It was an estate placed under the guardianship of the rich, to be devoted to the education of the poor. Whatever amount has been heretofore taken from this fund, has been so much taken from the poor. Whatever diversion of this fund from the original purpose has taken place, has so far deprived the poor scholars from rising out of that condition into which no man enters or voluntarily remains. We are therefore bound by a double obligation to restore in as far as we are able, this fund: by that which we owe to the generous and confiding donor, and by that most sacred obligation which rests upon the rich, to guard from infringing the rights of the poor.

On the simple ground of expediency, it is plainly our interest to preserve whatever remains in our hands of this fund, and to invest it in such manner as shall enable the Vestry of this Church to carry out at some future day, the intention of the donor. The principle of expediency leads a reflecting man to look at the consequences of a course of action through a long series of years. The field for reflection on the subject which we are considering, is comparatively limited with respect to American institutions. In England we find examples, which carry conviction directly to the mind. The formation of the most venerable

establishments for educational purposes, has been laid in the charities and the liberal donations of individuals. These charities, strictly confined to the purpose of the donor, accumulating through a long series of years, have resulted in magnificent endowments, for which England is peculiarly distinguished. Such, for example, Oxford and Cambridge—institutions which have imparted elevation and permanency to English literature, and which have shed abroad through that land generosity, humanity, and all the noblest virtues that enter into the highest forms of character. It is our interest, therefor, as patriotic Americans, to guard with peculiar care the charities and benefactions intrusted to us and intended as the foundation of educational institutions, religious or otherwise. No man will give property for charitable objects unless he has a reasonable confidence that his donation will be applied to the purpose he had in view. By diverting such funds from their original destination, all future benefactions, all future acts of liberality, are discouraged, and an unfavorable influence is exerted over the fortunes of the country.

Your Committee recommend earnestly, your attention to the responsibility which rests upon you in relation to the property bequeathed, in 1734, by Nathaniel Kay, Esq., to the Minister, Wardens and Vestry of this Church, as a trust for educational purposes. Your Committee would state that within twenty years you have had in your hands \$4800 of this fund; and that unless, by the consideration now submitted to you, your minds shall be awakened to the true nature of the case, there is danger of the entire annihilation of this fund, and of the utter forgetfulness of the generosity, and even of the name of Nathaniel Kay.

Your Committee pronounce no judgment upon those who have gone before us. Accustomed to see this diversion of funds from their original purpose, they probably became habituated to it, and ceased to think of it as a matter of much importance. Your Committee have had but a limited time to examine this subject. But that examination has awakened in them feelings of responsibility in this matter. They are satisfied that the Vestry have still in their hands, in trust, a portion of this fund: viz., all that which is now known as the Church Fund, and

\$800, which was transferred, August 5th, 1840, to the Poor Fund. This property, is therefore, a sacred trust in their hands to be devoted to a special purpose. The Church fund cannot rightly, in their opinion, be employed in the repairs of the Church. Your Committee are aware that a change in the circumstances of the time, may sometimes justify a deviation from the literal directions of the donor, provided by such deviation you more fully comply with the will of the donor. But no change in the circumstances of the time, no necessity in our existing condition; no mere present conveniency, will justify such a deviation as shall completely nulify the will of the donor, and extinguish his charity, and all the generous purposes connected with it.

Your Committee recommend that you rely for defraying the expense of repairing the Church, upon subscriptions made among the members of the Corporation, and those interested in the Church; and that a collection be taken up in the Church every alternate Sunday for this purpose. All which is respectfully submitted.

DAVID KING,
BENJ. FINCH,
MARSHALL C. SLOCUM,
JOHN B. WEEDEN,
MOSES NORMAN,
HENRY BULL.

April 14, 1849. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation.

The committee appointed April 8 to examine the Church and report necessary repairs, presented their report, which was received and ordered to be recorded.

Voted: that immediate measures be taken to restore the Kay fund.

Voted: that the Church fund be considered as a portion of the Kay fund; and that the eight shares of the R. I. Union Bank stock, transferred in 1840 to the Poor fund, be re-transferred to the Kay fund, and that the whole be placed in the hands of the Wardens and Vestry, as intended by the will of Nathaniel Kay.

Voted: that the Vestry be requested to collect all the documents relating to said fund, and particularly with regard to the leases of the lots of land, and that they be recorded in a book devoted to that purpose.

Voted: that the Church be repaired and painted, according to the report of the committee.

Voted: that a committee be appointed to solicit subscriptions for repairing the Church.

Voted: that the Sunday offerings for six months, from May 1 be devoted to repairs on the Church, and that the Treasurer keep the money so collected a distinct fund for that purpose.

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to hire such an amount as may be required by the Committee on Repairs; and that it be paid by money raised as above ordered.

Voted: that a committee be appointed to remove the monument now standing on the north side of the Church; and that it be put up within the Church, if it can be done without charge to the treasury; Dr. King and Walter Nichols to be the committee.³²

³² ON PAGE 177 of the First Series of the "Annals" reference is had to the erection of a monument to the Chevalier de Ternay, in 1785. The Chevalier, Admiral of the French Fleet, had died in Newport, in 1780, in a house on the Point, now often spoken of as the "Hunter house," but which should be known as the Nichols house. It was built by Deputy Governor Jonathan Nichols, son of Deputy Governor Jonathan Nichols. After his death it passed into the hands of Colonel Joseph Wapton, Jr., who also filled the office of Deputy Governor, and resided in the house for a number of years. He died in New York, a Loyalist, August 7, 1780, and in the same month, August 10, the French fleet entered Newport Harbor. The Chevalier came on shore and was quartered in this house. He was interred after the rites of the Roman Catholic Church, in earth consecrated for that purpose, in Trinity Church yard, and the funeral was described by an eye witness "as the most imposing that had ever been seen in the streets of Newport." The removal of the monument that had been raised to his memory by the French Government, to the vestibule of the Church, has

Voted: that a committee, the Wardens, ascertain if the owners of pews on the lower floor, will have slips fitted instead of the present square pews: if it can be done without expense to themselves.

been noticed on page 177. In the United States Senate, December 16, 1873, Hon. Henry B. Anthony, from Rhode Island, introduced the following bill:

"Be it enacted, &c., That the sum of \$800, or so much thereof as shall be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money not otherwise appropriated, to defray the expense of repairing and protecting from decay the monument at Newport, Rhode Island, to the memory of the Chevalier de Ternay, the Commander of the French naval forces in aid of the American Revolution, in 1780, the money hereby appropriated to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy."

In support of the bill Mr. Anthony made an eloquent speech, closing with the remark: "It has been suggested to me, and I think myself it would be most gracious, if the bill which I introduce, appropriating \$800, for the repair and preservation of the monument of the Chevalier de Ternay, should be passed without a reference. I am quite sure no one will object to it." The bill was passed.

The following letter upon the subject was addressed to Mr. Anthony by the French Minister at Washington,

Washington, December 20th, 1873.

My dear Senator:

I have read with a deep feeling of gratitude, the bill passed on the 16th of December by the Senate, concerning the sepulchral monument of the Chevalier de Ternay. If anything could add to the value of such a manifestation of the most delicate sentiment, it would be the courteous manner in which this bill has been passed and adopted by unanimous consent. The French Government and the French people will certainly be extremely sensible of such a proof of the pious recollection which the present generation preserves of what has been done in former times; and it becomes my pleasant duty to remark that in American hearts, if I may use here a metaphor which does not seem foreign to the subject, the memory of the aid given by France to the young Republic, has been more lasting than the Egyptian marble erected in the tomb of De Ternay.

The assistance which your people in their infancy received from the old world, you have since amply repaid by what you have done to the cause of humanity, in extending civilization and the true principles of liberty from ocean to ocean over the immensity of the new American continent.

So far as I am concerned, I feel it a great honor that my name should have been mentioned before so illustrious a body as the Senate of the United States. * * *

I remain, my dear Senator,

Very sincerely yours,

MARQUIS DE NOAILLES.

April 25, 1849. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation. Dr. King in the chair; 19 Corporators being present.

Dr. King held 16 proxies; William C. Gibbs, 3; Walter Nichols, 1; William V. Taylor, 1.

"The Committee to consult the owners of pews on the lower floor, in regard to the altering of pews, reported:

"That the change is feasible, without any expense to the Corporation, as several individuals have liberally offered to undertake the same, viz.: to remove the present pews, alter the pulpit, reading desk and chancel, if necessary; also to lay a new floor. put up slips, to correspond with the finish of other parts of the house—Provided you will grant them the right to dispose of, or let the additional number of pews gained by the alteration, also those not having individual owners, but standing in the name of the Church, for a period of time, until they have reimbursed themselves for the outlay; when they shall be made over to the Corporation.

"The Committee further report, that as far as practicable, they have conferred with the owners and the representatives of the pews; and that a large majority advocate the proposed alteration, viewing it as desirable for the accommodation of an enlarged congregation, and that all may, in due reverence, face the Altar with more convenience and comfort. They deem also the present time as the most suitable, while the building is undergoing the necessary repairs and painting: but there are several pew holders who venerate the present arrangement of the pews for their antiquity, and as being in accordance with the other architectural parts of the House, and are strenuously opposed to any change.

In consideration of the rights of even the minority, and in a Christian spirit endeavoring to avoid any altercation, or to generate any disunion of feeling, the Committee respectfully report the proposed change in the pews inexpedient at this time, and recommend the matter to be indefinitely postponed."

MARSHALL C. SLOCUM,

J. H. COZZENS,

Committee.

Voted: that the report be accepted; and that the vote of April 14, 1849, appointing a committee to solicit subscriptions for repairing the Church, be repealed.

Voted: that the vote passed April 14, 1849, authorizing the painting the Church inside, be repealed, and that the outside alone be painted.

May 17, 1849. Special meeting of the Corporation.

Voted: that M. C. Slocum be a committee to solicit subscriptions for repairing the Church.

Voted: that \$100 be appropriated for cleaning and painting the Church inside, and that the Senior Warden be a committee for that purpose, and that any previous vote inconsistent with the above be repealed.

Voted: that the vote of April 25, 1849, authorizing the painting of the outside of the Church be repealed; and that the committee on repairs be authorized to paint the steeple; and have discretionary power to paint other parts of the building outside, if the funds raised are found sufficient for that purpose.

August 6, 1849. Voted by the Vestry: that Dr. King and the Senior Warden carry into effect the vote of the Corporation, in relation to the Kay fund, passed April 14, 1849.

April 1, 1850. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 16 Corporators being present. Henry Bull in the chair.

The following officers were elected:

Marshall C. Slocum, *Senior Warden*.

John H. Cozzens, *Junior Warden*.

Benjamin Finch, David King, Henry Bull, Thomas W. Brown, William Cornell, Walter Nichols, George C. Mason, John N. Potter, Thomas R. Hunter, Joseph I. Bailey, William Gardner, *Vestrymen*.

William Cornell, *Treasurer*.

Walter Nichols, *Secretary*.

George Taylor, *Organist*.

Samuel Gladding, *Sexton*.

John Sterne, David King, John H. Cozzens and William Cornell, delegates to the State Convention.

Voted: that the Minister have a vacation of six weeks during the year.

Voted: that the subject of weekly offerings be referred to the Vestry.

Voted: that a committee, John H. Gilliat and Dr. King, investigate the present state of the trust funds of this Church, and report at the next annual meeting.

Voted: that the Treasurer pay over to the Minister, at his order, at any time before Christmas, \$48 for the poor of this Church.

Voted: that William C. Gibbs, John H. Cozzens, and Walter Nichols, make a new apportionment of pew tax, and that they report at the next annual meeting.

July 11, 1850. Voted: that a collection be taken in the Church, for the benefit of the Corporation, on the second Sunday in August, and that the Rector be requested to give notice of the same, on the Sunday preceding.

Voted: that the question of a collection for the Sunday School be postponed till the next meeting.

August 8, 1850. Voted by the Vestry: that a collection be taken in the Church, on Sunday, August 18, for the benefit of the Sunday School, and that notice of the same be given from the pulpit on the Sunday previous.

Voted: that the Treasurer be directed to pay the Church's proportion of the Bishop's salary.

September 30, 1850. The Senior Warden reported to the Vestry that he had leased the Church lot, in conformity to a vote November 6, 1848, to William B. Wilson, for 999 years, at a rent of \$120 per year.

The application of William Beach Lawrence,³³ for liberty to place the remains of his son in the graveyard was granted.

David King and Thomas R. Hunter were appointed a committee to examine the Church yard, and ascertain whether there is room for more graves, to report at the next meeting of the Corporation.

October 14, 1850. Voted: that the Treasurer give a lease of one-half of the Church lot to William B. Wilson, and a lease of the remainder to Henry Hazard on the same terms as first agreed with Mr. Wilson.

April 21, 1851. Annual Meeting; sixteen Corporators being present.

Marshall C. Slocum was elected *Senior Warden*.

John H. Cozzens, *Junior Warden*.

Benjamin Finch, George C. Mason, David King, Thomas Riddell, Henry Bull, Thomas R. Hunter, Thomas W. Brown, Robert P. Berry, William Cornell, William Gardner, Samuel Engs, *Vestrymen*.

William Cornell, *Treasurer*.

George C. Mason, *Secretary*, in place of Walter Nichols, resigned.

July 2, 1851. A communication from Miss Phebe C. Bull, Miss Charlotte S. Tew and Miss Elizabeth Wormeley, soliciting a collection in Trinity Church in behalf of the Mission Church (Emmanuel) at the south part of the town, was read and received: the Minister was instructed to take up a collection on Sunday, September 14, for and in behalf of the Mission.

³³ ARCHIBALD GRACIE LAWRENCE, son of William Beach Lawrence and Esther Rogers Lawrence, his wife, was killed by the accidental discharge of his gun, September 9, 1850. By his side rest the remains of his mother, who was the daughter of Archibald Gracie, of New York, died November 19, 1857, and of his brother, William B. Lawrence, Jr., who died April 28, 1870.

April 12, 1852. Annual Meeting; fifteen Corporators being present.

Rev. D. R. Brewer was elected Minister for the year, at a salary of \$1000.

The following resolution was adopted.

Resolved: that the Corporation of Trinity Church, feeling a deep interest in the bereavement which has recently befallen their Pastor, Rev. D. R. Brewer, by the death of his wife, express to him their sympathy and offer their condolence in his affliction: also, that a respite from his duties in the Church be tendered him.

May 15, 1852. The following communication from the Minister was read and received:

To the Vestry of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: If agreeable to you, I desire that there may be three collections in the course of the summer, viz.: one for the Sunday School, one for the Mission at the south part of the town, and one for missions in the Diocese of Rhode Island.

Respectfully yours,

D. R. BREWER.

On motion it was voted: that but two of the specified collections be taken up: one for the Mission at the south part of the town, and one for the State Mission.

January 5, 1852. At a Vestry meeting the following resolutions, called forth by the death of Thomas W. Brown, a member of the Vestry, were adopted:

Resolved: that in the death of the late amiable and zealous Thomas W. Brown, Esq., Trinity Church has lost a member whose sincerity and faithfulness was an example to the community and an honor to the Church.

Resolved: that we deeply deplore his loss as a member of this Board, having officiated for the space of twenty-seven years

as Vestryman, and having discharged the duties attached to the office ably and faithfully.

Resolved: that we deeply sympathize with his family in this severe dispensation, which has removed from them one so worthy of their best affections.

Resolved: that these resolutions be communicated to the family of the deceased.

February 10, 1854. At a special meeting of the Corporation, the following communication from Rev. D. R. Brewer was read and received:

Newport, R. I., Feb. 10th, 1854.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: I have felt under a necessity of calling you together at this time, for the purpose of asking from you leave of absence for a period of about six months, that I may recruit my health by a voyage to Europe.

I have suffered for some time past from nervous debility, and from an inflammation in the eyes, and both of these difficulties are a serious hindrance to my studies. For the latter of them I am still under medical treatment. But I believe that entire rest, for a season, from study and pastoral care, would be of more service to me than any other remedy.

I would have postponed this request until the Easter meeting, had I not thought it unwise and unsafe for me to attempt to go on until that time. I feel it my duty to ask to be released at the end of my present quarter, March 1st.

I relinquish my salary during the time of my absence, for the payment of substitutes; and if you desire it, I will do what I can to aid you in obtaining them.

Hoping I may return to my labors with renewed energy of body and mind, I remain

Your Friend and Pastor,

D. R. BREWER.

The following resolutions were offered by Mr. John H. Giliat:

Whereas a letter from our friend and pastor is received, from which we learn that he requires rest, and change of scene and climate—and whereas we recognize duty as the sole measure of ability, and know that we can do what we ought to do; and whereas, we are convinced that it is our duty, and his due for seven years of faithful service; therefore,

Resolved: that leave of absence be granted to the Rev. D. R. Brewer, from the first of March unto the 1st of November, 1854.

Resolved: that his salary be continued during his absence, and that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay it to the Rev. D. R. Brewer in such manner as may suit his convenience and promote his comfort.

Resolved: that the members of this Corporation do sympathize with the cause of our Pastor's absence, and hopefully look forward to his restoration to health, and to his continued usefulness among us, his friends and people.

Voted: that the above resolutions be taken up in sections.

The first resolution, that leave of absence be granted to Rev. D. R. Brewer, from March 1st to November 1st, 1854, was unanimously adopted.

On the reading of the second resolution, that his salary be continued during his absence, the house was called:

Ayes. William C. Gibbs [with proxies] 12; John H. Gilliat, 8; William S. Wetmore, 4; Theo. C. Dunn, 1; George H. Calvert, 1; Thomas R. Hunter, 1; Robert P. Berry, 1; Jethro Carr, 1; David King, 1; George C. Mason, 1; Total, 31.

Noes. George Hall, 1; John N. Potter, 1; Moses Norman, 2; Isaiah Crooker, 2; William Gardner, 2; Thomas Breese, 3; Henry Bull, 2; William Cornell, 1; Samuel Engs, 3; Job T. Langley, 1; Russell Coggeshall, 1; Marshall C. Slocum, 2; William Chase, 1; Joseph H. Bailey, 2; William G. Bailey, 2;

John H. Cozzens, 1; George C. Munroe, 1; Theodore Helme, 1; Total, 29.

It was declared an affirmative vote.

The third section was approved.

It was proposed by Mr. Wetmore that a subscription be raised, to defray the expense of supplying the pulpit during the absence of the Minister, and voted in the affirmative. The following named gentlemen then offered the sums affixed to their names: William S. Wetmore, \$100; John H. Gilliat, \$100; George H. Calvert, \$50; Thomas R. Hunter, \$50.

Mr. Wetmore also offered \$100 towards defraying the expenses of the Minister during his absence.

April 11, 1854. A letter was received by the Vestry from a committee appointed by the Diocesan Convention for the purpose of raising the sum of \$5000 for the benefit of the widow of the late Bishop Henshaw; also a letter from a committee appointed by the Convention, relating to the erection of a monument to the late Bishop of the Diocese: both of which were referred to the next meeting of the Corporation.

April 17, 1854. Annual Meeting.

Voted: that Rev. D. R. Brewer be elected Minister for the ensuing year, and that he receive at the rate of \$1000 per annum while officiating as Pastor, and that he be allowed his usual vacation.

The following letter from Rev. Mr. Brewer was read:

Newport, Feb. 11th, 1854.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen:

I thank you for so readily and unanimously granting me the leave of absence, which I requested, and for extending the time beyond my request.

But I must respectfully decline to accept my salary during

the time of my absence. If this unasked gift had been offered to me by the vote of a large majority, it would have been accepted with great satisfaction: not merely for its practical advantages, but more especially as a recorded evidence of the good will of the Corporation. But as nearly one-half of the whole number of votes were against it, I cannot consent to receive it.

With kind feelings and good wishes for all the members of the Parish, I remain

Your Friend and Pastor,
D. R. BREWER.

Voted: that the communication be received.

Voted: that the Wardens be authorized to hand round the contribution box every Sunday morning, in Trinity Church, from June 1st to October 1st (except on days when the collection is otherwise appropriated) and that the Minister at such times give notice that the proceeds are in aid of the erection of a Church in the south part of the town; the proceeds to be handed over to Samuel Powel, Marshall C. Slocum and Edward King, the building committee.³⁴

³⁴ EMMANUEL CHURCH. In the south part of Newport there was formerly a building that had been used by the Free Will Baptists, as a place of worship, with the hope of drawing to it the mill hands living in that part of the town. The operatives, who were in great part of English extraction, were not drawn to it: but when a number of ladies of Trinity Church—Misses Phebe C. Bull, Charlotte F. Tew and Elizabeth Wormeley,—went among the people, there was a response that induced these worthy women to exertion in their behalf. The unoccupied building was taken, a mission known as Emmanuel Church was set on foot, and on October 27, 1850, Rev. D. R. Brewer, of Trinity Church, began work there, in connection with his own parish. The following year, Rev. Mr. Gay was engaged by Mr. Brewer, to labor there for three months. He was followed by Rev. Kensey J. Stewart, September 14, 1851, on a salary of \$500, raised by subscription. In 1855 Mr. Stewart resigned his charge, and Rev. Mr. Brewer, with that devoted zeal that characterized his life, gave up his comfortable living in Trinity Church, went down there and labored with such success as to put the Church upon a self-supporting basis in 1858. In July of that

A communication was read from the committee appointed by the Diocesan Convention to raise funds to erect a monument to the memory of the late Bishop Henshaw. Voted: that the Senior Warden be directed to reply on the part of the Corporation, and enclose \$50 for the above purpose.

Voted: that the Wardens be instructed to apply to the City Council for leave to put a chain across Church street, on Sundays, to prevent vehicles passing during the hours of service.

Voted: that the Charter of the Church, with the amendments, and a sketch of the history of the Church, be published, and that a copy be furnished each owner of a pew; that 500 copies

year he retired, his resignation to take effect on the first of September. His successor was Rev. Daniel Leach, who supplied the pulpit for September, and Rev. Mr. Foxcroft officiated during the following three months. December 28, 1858, Rev. Charles Wingate, who had just before been ordained, was called to the Church, and remained till October, 1861. Rev. Dr. Balch was the next Rector, and he remained till the last of December, 1865.

The Parish is now in a most prosperous state, under Rev. Emery H. Porter. It has grown and expanded, its influence for good has steadily increased, its Church edifice has been enlarged, to afford greater accommodation, and provision has been made commensurate with the growth of the Parish. Its sittings are free, and the confidence in the willingness of the friends of the Church to sustain it, has not been misplaced.

Of the pioneers in this work something more should be said. Miss Phebe C. Bull was a woman with a large heart, whose life was given to works of benevolence. Her means were constantly drawn upon for the relief of others, and it was chiefly through her instrumentality, in that she supplied in great part the necessary funds, that the chapel now known as "All Saints" was built. She was the daughter of the late Henry Bull, and died October 31, 1855.

Miss Charlotte Tew, also of Newport, was another zealous worker. She became the wife of Rev. D. R. Brewer, and lives to mourn him, and her only son, who had entered the ministry.

Miss Elizabeth Wormeley was the daughter of Rear Admiral Ralph Randolph Wormeley, R. N., who had made his home in Newport, and died here June 26, 1852. She was married to Randolph Latimer, of Baltimore, June 14, 1856. She now resides in Europe. Through her writings she is known to the literary world.

be printed, and that David King, John H. Gilliat and George C. Mason be a committee to carry the resolution into effect.

May 30, 1854. Special meeting of the Corporation; fifteen Corporators being present.

The following communication from the Treasurer, William Cornell, was read and received, and his resignation was accepted.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen:

Having to give up my pew in Trinity Church, and being unable to obtain another, I must consequently connect myself with another Parish. As it would be improper in that case for me to hold an office in Trinity Parish, I hereby resign the office of Treasurer, Vestryman, and delegate to the Diocesan Convention. Grateful for the kindness and confidence which you have been pleased to extend to me,

I am, very respectfully,

Your Ob't S'v't,

WM. CORNELL.

Newport, May 9th, 1854.

On motion John N. Potter was elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

November 4, 1854. The following letter was laid before the Vestry:

Newport, Oct. 27th, 1854.

M. C. Slocum, Esq.,

Dear Sir: I apply to you as a Warden of Trinity Church, in this city. As you know, I have bought myself a house here, and a pew in Trinity Church, and mean to make a residence here, and will probably here finish my days.

I am very anxious to place a tablet to the memory of my only daughter, who died in London some three years since. I have gone to great expense in its preparation, and if I do not deceive myself, you and your brother Vestrymen will admit that it is a great ornament to the Church, when erected.

I hope to receive a favorable answer from you, and am, with much respect,

Yours faithfully,

DUNCAN C. PELL.³⁵

The above application was granted, provided the work was done without injury to the building, and under the direction of the Senior Warden and Mr. D. C. Pell.

Marshall C. Slocum and George C. Mason were appointed a committee to express to Rev. D. C. Millett the thanks of the Vestry for the faithful discharge of the duties of Pastor during the absence of Rev. D. R. Brewer, and to present him an additional compensation of one hundred dollars.

March 1, 1855. The following communication was read, received, and ordered to be recorded:

At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the Newport Employment Society, it was voted: that the thanks of this Society are due to the Vestry of Trinity Church, for permitting them to occupy the School House for the sewing school, during the past year.

In behalf of the Society,

M. T. BERRY,^{35½} Secy.

³⁵ PERMISSION had been given Mr. Duncan C. Pell [p. 162] to place a tablet to the memory of a deceased daughter, on the wall space in the Church on the right of the chancel, with the understanding that if the space should at any time be wanted for a monument to a deceased Rector, it should be given up. When a request was made, as above, for the place, for a monument to Rev. Dr. Wheaton, the committee gave Mr. Pell wall space over his own pew, on the north aisle.

Mr. Pell took an active part in the affairs of the Church, as a member of the Vestry, in which body he had a seat for a number of years. He was born in New York, January 23, 1807, and died in Newport, January 16, 1874.

^{35½} MRS. MARY T. BERRY, the daughter of the late William Thurston, was married to the late R. P. Berry, July 18, 1847, and died October 9, 1889, leaving no issue. Her husband had died before her.

At a special meeting of the Corporation, March 19, 1855, the following communication from the Minister was read:

Newport, March 1st, 1855.

My dear Sir:

It is my intention to resign my charge, as Minister of Trinity Church, on Easter Monday next, April 9th. As I shall state my reasons for this step, in the communication to the Corporation, at that time, it will not be necessary to enumerate them now. Indeed, they are already known to yourself and others, with whom I have spoken on the subject.

My purpose in addressing to you this note, is to give due notice of my intention to resign, so that the Wardens and Vestry may take any action which may seem to them expedient.

Yours very truly,

M. C. Slocum, Esq.,
Senior Warden.

D. R. BREWER.

The Corporation took no action on the above, and adjourned. April 9, 1855. Annual Meeting; thirty Corporators being present. Dr. David King in the chair.

Minutes of the last Annual Meeting read.

The committee on printing the Charter and Sketch of the History of the Church reported, that documents from England were wanted, and the committee were authorized to obtain them, and draw on the Treasurer.

The following communication from Rev. D. R. Brewer was read, received and ordered to be recorded:

Mrs. Berry's death was not only a great loss to the Church, but also to the whole community; for her life was given to good works—the care of the needy and the clothing of the destitute. She was one of the most efficient members of the Dorcas Society, and probably no one person was more widely known by the benevolent, who often made her their almoner, and by those who stood in need of her thoughtful care.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen:

It has been already made known to you that it was my intention to resign the charge of Trinity Church, on Easter Monday. I now beg leave to carry this resolution into effect, by tendering to you my resignation.

My reasons, briefly stated, are as follows. In the first place I feel constrained by a sense of duty to take the charge of the Missionary Church, known as Emmanuel Church, in the south part of the city. This Church owes its origin to the charitable labors of several ladies of Trinity Church, and has been thus far supported chiefly by members of the same Parish. It has already accomplished great good among a portion of our population, who, before, were poorly supplied with religious privileges. When the Minister, who for three years past, has had charge of this mission, felt obliged to withdraw, I made some unsuccessful efforts to procure another. The smallness and uncertainty of the compensation formed a serious difficulty. It appeared to me that either I must undertake the work myself, or it must be utterly abandoned. I could not long hesitate, which of these two to choose. I had taken a deep interest in this mission from its beginning. I could not willingly see it die, for want of a pastor. I thought myself a fit person to take that office, by reason of my thorough knowledge of the nature of the work, and my hearty interest in it. In this opinion I was confirmed by the judgment of those who are most anxious for the success of this work, and have done the most for it. The vacancy can easily be supplied; but it is not easy to find a suitable minister for the mission to the poor.

In the second place, I have been moved to resign my present position, as Minister of Trinity Church, by the conviction that I am unable to properly fill it. I do not feel myself equal to it, either in body or mind. The amount of pastoral duty is so great, the necessity of hard study, in preparation for the pulpit, is so constant, the congregation, especially during the summer, is so large, and is made up of such a variety of character and taste, that my strength is often exhausted without meeting their wishes, or reaching my own standard of duty. The tour in

Europe, which, through your kindness, I was permitted to make last year, was of great service in recruiting my health. But I fear that under the continual pressure of so much care and labor, I shall gradually lose all that I then gained. It is my belief that a smaller and more humble sphere will be better suited to my capacity and constitution.

These are the principal causes that have induced me to send in my resignation. But though I retire, under a conviction of duty, it is also with feelings of sadness and regret. After more than eight years of pastoral connection with you, after so many hours passed with you in the House of Prayer, so many visits at your homes, so many seasons of sorrow when I have been called to minister to you the consolations of the Gospel—after all the sympathy you have shown me in my own affliction, and all your forbearance towards my manifold imperfections, I cannot without deep emotion now sever the bond that has joined us together.

It is my hearty desire and prayer to God that you may be guided by Him in the choice of my successor, and that you may be blessed with a pastor who shall be more devoted, able and successful, than I can claim to have been. May you all walk in the way of truth and peace, and at last be numbered with the Saints in glory everlasting.

I remain very truly your friend,

D. R. BREWER.

Newport, April 9th, 1855.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved: that we, the Corporation of Trinity Church, receive the letter of resignation from our Rector, the Reverend D. R. Brewer, with deep and sincere feelings of regret.

Resolved: that his religious example, his pure and upright course of life, his uniform kindness to his parishioners, his steady devotion to his high calling, and his able ministration to us, during a period of eight years, will ever recur to our minds with grateful recollections.

Resolved: that in separating from him, in the relation of Rector, we find some solace in the fact that he intends to remain in our community, and by assuming the charge of a new parish, to advance the true interest of the Church in this city.

Resolved: that in making this sacrifice for the well being of the Church, he has our best sympathies, and will not fail of our sincere prayers for his success in so noble a work.

Resolved: that these resolutions be recorded, and that a copy of them be transmitted to the Reverend Mr. Brewer, signed by the President and Secretary of this meeting.

David King, Duncan C. Pell and M. C. Slocum were appointed a committee to tender the above resolutions to Rev. Mr. Brewer; also to supply the pulpit, and to take such measures as they may deem proper to obtain a Minister for the Parish, and draw on the Treasurer for the expenses incurred.

Benjamin Finch, Henry Bull and Thomas R. Hunter were appointed a committee to re-value the pews, and report to the Corporation.

The following officers were elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

John H. Cozzens, *Junior Warden*.

Benjamin Finch, Thomas R. Hunter, David King, R. P. Berry, Henry Bull, William Gardner, Charles Hunter, Moses Norman, Duncan C. Pell, John N. Potter, Samuel Engs, *Vestrymen*.

John N. Potter, *Treasurer*.

Francis Breese, *Secretary*.

Delegates to the State Convention: David King, Samuel Powell, Marshall C. Slocum, Duncan C. Pell.

Substitutes: Edward King, George Hall, John H. Cozzens and Moses Norman.

The Treasurer was to pay \$51, the Church's proportion of

the Bishop's salary; \$15 for blowing the organ, and \$50 was to be added to the Poor Fund.

Voted: that a collection be taken up once in two weeks, during the summer, for Emmanuel Church; and that notice be given that it was for the support of that mission.

Appropriated for singing, \$250, under direction of Samuel Engs and Thomas R. Hunter.

Moses Norman to be a committee to examine the floor of the Church, and report at the next meeting.

CHAPTER VI.

1855-1860.

May 10, 1855. At a special meeting of the Corporation, it was unanimously voted: that the Rev. A. G. Mercer be called as Rector of this Parish, at a salary of \$1500 per annum.

The committee on supplying the pulpit were requested to communicate the above resolution to Rev. Mr. Mercer.

M. C. Slocum, George C. Mason and William G. Bailey were to be a committee to consider the expediency of heating the Church with furnaces, and to ascertain if it was practicable to drain the cellar under the Church.

The committee to examine the Church floor reported that it needed but little attention to put it in good order.

May 14, 1855. At a Vestry meeting, the committee on Church property was to ascertain what was the line between the Church and the Crandall estate; and the committee on drainage was to confer with the Street Commissioner on that subject.

The following communication was read, received and ordered to be recorded.

Newport, May 14th, 1855.

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: Please accept my acknowledgments for your kindness in granting me the site for the monument to my child; with the understanding that the same may be removed to another

suitable location whenever the space it occupies may be needed for a tablet, or monument, to Bishop Berkeley, or any other ecclesiastic.

With great respect,
Your obedient servant,
DUNCAN C. PELL.

May 23, 1855. The committee on drainage reported that the cellar could be drained at a small expense; but to carry the drain to a depth that would admit of the use of furnaces would cost at least \$1000.

The Wardens were to use their discretion and taste in painting the interior of the Church.

June 25, 1855. The petition of Mrs. Oliver H. Perry,³⁶ to be allowed to erect a monument over her pew was granted; and the Treasurer was directed to pay over to Rev. D. R. Brewer all money collected for Emmanuel Church.

July 12, 1855. A communication having been read from the Wardens of St. Luke's Church, Dixon, Illinois, asking that a collection be taken up in Trinity Church for the benefit of that Church: the Senior Warden was instructed to reply, that as Trinity Church is now engaged in supporting and erecting a mission church in this city, it has need for all the funds that may be collected here.

Voted: that Moses Norman, J. H. Cozzens and Dr. King be

³⁶ MRS. ELIZABETH CHAMPLIN PERRY was the only daughter of Dr. Benjamin Mason and Margaret Champlin, his wife. She was married May 5, 1811, to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, then a young lieutenant, full of promise and burning for fame. How well he realized the expectations of those who knew him is a matter of history. Mrs. Perry caused the marble tablet to his memory, to be placed over the family pew in the Church, in 1855. It closes with these words: "As a mark of her continued respect for his memory."

Mrs. Perry died February 11, 1858, and was laid at rest in the Perry burial lot, Island Cemetery, by the remains of her husband, and two of her sons.

a committee to raise the sounding board, and that if such elevation does not remove the difficulty in speaking from the pulpit, they are authorized to remove the same; and if such removal does not effect the object, then they are to return it to its place.*

September 14, 1855. Voted: that Dr. King, Thomas R. Hunter and M. C. Slocum be a committee to confer with the Rev. Mr. Mercer, and ascertain his views in regard to having an assistant minister, and also as to the propriety of holding Divine services in the Chapel, instead of the Church, during the coming winter; to report at a Vestry meeting to be held the following night.

No action was taken on the above, at the meeting held the next evening: but a vote was passed calling a Corporation meeting, to hear a report on the revaluation of pews.

September 19, 1855. A report read at a special meeting of the Corporation, fixed the valuation of the pews on the lower floor of the Church at \$32,200, leaving the gallery pews as before. The tax on the lower floor was fixed at 7 per cent. on the new valuation.

It was unanimously resolved, that from the first of October, the salary of the Rector of this Parish be at the rate of \$2000 per annum, in order that he may engage an assistant, should he think proper to do so.

Dr. King and Mr. Finch were a committee to remit taxes, where it was thought they bore heavily on the owners and occupants of pews.

Mr. Finch was to ascertain on what terms the Crandall estate, just west of the Church, could be had.

* THE sounding board was removed at the request of Dr. Mercer, who thought it had a depressing effect; but finding no relief, it was restored to its old place, to the great satisfaction of the people.



REV. ALEXANDER G. MERCER, D.D.

The following letter was addressed to Rev. Mr. Mercer, by the Senior Warden:

Newport, September 24th, 1855.

Reverend and Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Corporation of Trinity Church, holden at the School House on Thursday evening, 20th inst., the following resolution was offered and unanimously adopted.

“Resolved: that from the First of October, the salary of the Rector of this Parish be at the rate of \$2000 per annum, in order that he may engage an assistant, should he think proper to do so.”

And in communicating to you this vote of the Corporation, allow me, my dear Sir, individually, and as one of their number, to express a lively hope that the invigorating air of Newport will in time restore you to perfect health; and that the ties, which already bind us so closely, may draw us nearer to our God and His Holy Church.

May God Almighty bless you, and prosper you in all your ways; may He fill your heart with His divine love; and may the seeds of righteousness sown through your ministry, grow and ripen into perfect fruit.

GEO. C. MASON,
Chairman pro tem.

To Revd. A. G. Mercer,
Rector of Trinity Church.

Newport, Tuesday, Sept. 24th, 1855.

My dear Mr. Mason:

I have just received your note containing the resolution of the Corporation. With sincere gratitude do I acknowledge and accept their goodness; and feel with all my heart the kindness with which you have conveyed it. I send back to you, and to those you represent, the fervent “God bless you” you have sent me. I assure you I cannot think of anything more grateful (to any man at all right minded) than such a note as you have sent me.

Earnestly hoping for the good you speak of, and with every affectionate greeting to you and to all my friends,

I am,

A. G. MERCER.

To Geo. C. Mason, Esq., Chairman, &c.

November 2, 1855. At a Vestry meeting the following communication was read:

To the Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport;

Gentlemen: The undersigned, ladies attending the above Church, respectfully represent that they experience very great inconvenience from the stove heating of the Church, and to such an extent that many are compelled to absent themselves from Church during the winter months.

With great deference they suggest that such mode of ventilation be adopted as may seem expedient to you.

Signed by Mrs. E. N. Cox, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Thomas Breese, Mrs. Birckhead, Mrs. W. B. Lawrence, Mrs. G. H. Thorndike, Mrs. M. L. Hunter, Mrs. De Jongh, Mrs. William C. Gibbs, Mrs. Marin, Mrs. Calvert, Mrs. Stockton, Mrs. D. C. Pell.

Voted: that Mr. Pell and Mr. Norman be a committee to ascertain the best method of ventilating the Church, and to cause such ventilation to be carried out.

March 24, 1856. Annual Meeting; twenty-five Corporators being present.

Voted: that a committee, comprising the Wardens, call upon Rev. A. G. Mercer, to ascertain when he will be instituted as Rector of this Church, and to report at the next meeting of the Vestry.

Voted: that a collection be taken up once in two weeks during the summer, to pay the salary of the Rector of Emmanuel Church.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 9 per cent. on the recent valuation of the pews; and if the taxes are not paid within thirty days of the time when due, 2.5 per cent. will be added for every month that they remain unpaid.

March 25, 1856. The committee appointed to wait upon Rev. A. G. Mercer, to ascertain when he would be instituted, reported to the Vestry, that he begged to take time to consider the matter.

June 23, 1856. The Wardens were asked to draw up a circular, requesting the owners of carriages to keep them away from the neighborhood of the Church, during the hours of public service, and to have a printed copy placed in every pew in the Church.

December 9, 1856. Francis Breese, who had changed his residence, to another city, resigned as Secretary. Job T. Langley was elected to fill his place.

February 20, 1857. Voted: that a committee, comprising David King, M. C. Slocum, George C. Mason, Duncan C. Pell, Samuel Engs and John H. Cozzens, take into consideration the altering of the pews on the lower floor of the Church into slips, and to report at the next meeting of the Vestry.

April 7, 1857. The following communication from the Rector was read by Duncan C. Pell:

Tuesday, April 7th, 1857.

To the Wardens and Vestrymen of Trinity Church, Newport;
Gentlemen:

I have written to New York for a pair of Goblets, for the Communion Service, in the hope of first using them on Easter Sunday. Be pleased to accept this gift for and in behalf of Trinity Church, and believe me to be,

Respectfully and affectionately,

A. G. MERCER.

Voted: that the Wardens be a committee to tender the Rev. A. G. Mercer the thanks of the Vestry.

April 13, 1857. Annual Meeting; twenty-eight Corporators being present, and the Senior Warden in the chair.

The following communication was read by the chairman:

Newport, April 12th, 1857.

My dear Sir:

I write to return my hearty thanks to the Corporation of Trinity Church, for all they have done towards the support of the parish which is under my charge. We feel indebted to them for a long continuance of nursing care and protection. We pray that they may be abundantly rewarded by the great Head of the Church, and experience the truth of the promise: "He that watereth shall be watered also himself." At the same time we beg leave to say that we do not ask, nor expect, any further assistance, in the way of public collections. We have good reason to believe that the weekly offerings in our own Church, together with other donations, sent in from time to time, will hereafter be sufficient to meet our necessary expenses; and whether this should prove to be the fact or not, we think it is time to try the experiment of self support.

By laying this communication, or the substance of it, before the Corporation, at the Easter meeting, you will confer a favor on,

Yours very truly,

D. R. BREWER,

Rector of Emmanuel Church.

Geo. C. Mason, Esq.,

Senior Warden, Trinity Church.

April 19, 1858. The committee having reported on the expediency of having gas brought into the Church edifice, it was voted to allow the committee to pipe the Church properly, if it could be done without expense to the Corporation.

A complaint having been brought against Samuel Gladding,

Sexton, by Mrs. Daniel Goff, the matter was investigated by the Vestry, and an opportunity was given Gladding to resign; this he declined to do, whereupon he was informed that his services would not be required after the above date.

April 29, 1858. The question of the building a new Church edifice having been brought up, a committee was appointed to draw up a circular, stating the need of a new building, and to send copies of it to members of the Corporation. Dr. D. King and George C. Mason to be that committee.

Dr. King, M. C. Slocum and S. Engs were to be a committee to call on the Corporators, and ascertain their views on the subject of the circular.

May 3, 1858. The committee appointed to draft a circular on the subject of a new Church edifice, reported as follows:

"It is well known that for the last few years Trinity Church has been steadily increasing. The Church has arrived at that period of progress when the present Church building does not furnish room adequate to accommodate the number of those who would worship within its walls. This fact of the want of sufficient accommodation, must be acknowledged to be a great evil to an advancing Church; and, if from indifference in the present Corporators, allowed to exist, it is calculated to exert a chilling effect on its growth and prosperity. This evil can only be obviated, either by an enlargement of the present building, or by the erection of a new Church edifice. The enlargement of the present building would be attended by almost insurmountable obstacles; and if it could be effected, would involve an expense disproportionate to the advantage accruing from it. The erection of a new building, therefore, forces itself upon us as a matter of necessity. There are obvious reasons why the Church should be built of stone, and after the model of the old English Parochial churches, as best adapted to Episcopal worship. With regard to the site of the Church, there are many

reasons why the new building should rise from the old consecrated spot, surrounded by the graves of those who have worshipped there for a century and a half. It must be borne in mind, however, that the erection of a new edifice, with suitable accommodations, on the present site, would, necessarily, occasion much disturbance and injury of graves and tombs; and that during the period of building—perhaps a long period—the congregation would be deprived of a place of worship. These last considerations, together with some prospective views of the public convenience, may, perhaps, induce the Corporation to select a new site for the new Church.

“The Vestry of Trinity Church respectfully call your serious attention to the subject; requesting you to give due consideration to all the circumstances that bear upon the question.”³⁷

“It is desirable to have the enclosed form filled up.

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Tuesday, May 4th, 1858.

Gentlemen of the Vestry:

At the earliest moment after my return, permit me to address you a few words as to the design which I learn is before you, of building a new church. One of the propositions is, as I understand, to remove the present structure and rebuild upon its site. *That* I earnestly hope, and on every account, you will not conclude to do. And as silence on my part might be construed either into acquiescence with such a purpose, or indifference as to it, I am compelled, greatly against my wish, to express a clear and decided opinion against it. It is a venerable relic, which it is a sort of virtue to preserve; and to destroy it would do violence to many hearts. On all other points respecting this matter, I am content and glad to remain where your delicate consideration has placed me—removed from *all* connection or interference with the movement.

I cannot, however, avoid expressing to you my profound satisfaction at the affectionate and harmonious spirit which I see is at work among you: keeping you “one in heart” amidst differences well fitted to disturb and rend.

I am, Gentlemen of the Vestry, most affectionately
Your friend and Pastor,

A. G. MERCER.

To the Vestry of Trinity Church,
Newport, R. I.

"In a few days a Committee of the Vestry will call on you to ascertain your views with regard to the erection of a new Church edifice. Should the report of the Committee make it expedient, a meeting of the Corporation will hereafter be called by the Vestry, for final action on the subject.

"Questions addressed to the Corporators of Trinity Church, who are required by the Vestry to fill out the blanks, and have them ready for the Committee when they call.

"1. Do you favor the erection of a new Church?

"Answer.

"2. Are you in favor of erecting the building on the old site, and, if so, will you relinquish your pew?

"Answer.

"3. Are you in favor of a new location, and, if so, will you become the purchaser of a pew?

"Answer.

"4. Will you contribute towards the erection of a new Church?

"Answer.

Voted: that the circular be received, and that a copy of the same be presented to each Corporator.

The response was anything but favorable to the project.

July 30, 1858. At a Vestry meeting the chairman presented the following petition:

To the Vestry of Trinity Church,

We, the undersigned, ladies of Trinity Church, hearing with alarm that our much respected Rector has received a call to a Church of much greater influence and importance than our own, and fearing that he may be induced to leave us, we would most humbly request the Vestry to take some immediate measures, to insure if possible his remaining among us.

We think it unnecessary to dwell upon the great good which he has done in this Parish, and the unusual amount of affection

and respect which he has secured to himself from all classes. Therefore we hope that only a suggestion is necessary to induce the gentlemen to act with promptness.

As we are told, and have every reason to believe, that Mr. Mercer preaches in Trinity Church with great personal discomfort, and, indeed, injury to himself, during the summer months, we would suggest that he be requested by the Vestry to preach in his Chapel, if more agreeable to himself, he supplying Trinity Church pulpit during the summer months, until such time as the Corporation think fit to build a new Church.

This is respectfully suggested to the Vestry by the following ladies:

Mrs. Julia Lawrence,	Mrs. Martha D. Washburn,
Mrs. Mary Cox,	Mrs. Mary S. Hunter,
Mrs. Amy Wood,	Miss Sophia Scott,
Mrs. Catharine V. Allen,	Miss Rebecca Hunter,
Miss Sarah Morris,	Miss Mary A. Fowler,
Miss Catharine M. Croke,	Miss E. E. Mumford,
Mrs. Joanna H. Croke,	Mrs. M. C. Fowler,
Mrs. E. S. Engs,	Mrs. Ruth Sherman,
Mrs. C. F. Wickham,	Mrs. Mary K. Gibbs,
Mrs. M. E. Hazard,	Mrs. Eliza P. Dean,
Miss Mary Wood,	Mrs. Geo. C. Mason,
Mrs. Abby S. Westcott,	Mrs. Geo. C. Munroe,
Mrs. Sarah Norman,	Mrs. Wm. J. Munroe,
Miss Sarah B. Norman,	Mrs. John Bull,
Miss Elizabeth Gibbs,	Mrs. Henry Bull,
Miss Mary A. Coggeshall,	Mrs. Mary F. H. Bull,
Miss Annie R. Coggeshall,	Mrs. Duncan C. Pell,
Miss Sarah J. Cook,	Mrs. Mary T. Porter,
Miss Elizabeth H. Munroe,	Mrs. C. G. Perry,
Miss Sarah A. W. Munroe,	Mrs. Benjamin Finch,
Miss Mary A. Finch,	Mrs. Sarah Hoskins,
Miss Sarah E. Finch,	Mrs. Sarah E. Langley,
Miss Mary C. Handy,	Mrs. Wm. H. Bliss,
Miss Caroline E. R. Hoskins,	Mrs. Susan F. Kayhn,
Miss H. Rodman,	Mrs. Eliza R. Bliss,
Miss Sarah Greene,	Mrs. A. E. Kayhn,

Miss Elizabeth R. Greene,	Mrs. Benj. S. Melville,
Miss Annie S. Gardner,	Mrs. H. F. Gardner,
Miss Annie R. Breese,	Mrs. Lucy M. Breese,
Miss Elizabeth Breese,	Mrs. Sarah E. Anderson,
Miss E. S. Sayre,	Mrs. Joshua Sayre,
Miss E. H. Sayre,	Mrs. John N. Potter,
Miss Mary Springer,	Mrs. Mary Springer,
Mrs. Edward King,	Mrs. Sabine,
Mrs. Wm. G. Seabury,	Miss Elizabeth White.

Voted: that the above petition be received.

On motion of Benjamin Finch, Voted: that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Rector and inform him of the feelings of the Petitioners, and inquire if he entertained the acceptance of his call as a duty, or if there was anything in his Church that was objectionable to him, and that could be remedied by the Vestry.

Voted: that George C. Mason be that committee.

July 31, 1858. The Senior Warden reported to the Vestry, that he had informed the Rector of the vote of the Vestry, and that Mr. Mercer wished to render his most sincere thanks to the ladies and the Vestry, but declined saying anything in relation to the vote of the Vestry.

Voted: that the Rector have the privilege of preaching in his Chapel during the summer months, and at any other time when most agreeable to him.

August 5, 1858. At the Vestry meeting the chairman read the following communication:

August 2d, 1858.

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to acknowledge a communication from the Secretary, conveying a unanimous vote of your body, according to me the privilege of preaching in the Chapel during

the summer months, and at any other time when most agreeable to me. I am truly sensible of your kindness in this act, and am grateful for your earnest desire to do all that is in your power for my comfort. Permit me to say, however, that I could hardly feel at liberty to use the privilege you have so kindly designed to give me, unless ratified by an act of the Corporation.

I am, Gentlemen, your affectionate friend and Pastor,
A. G. MERCER.

The communication was received and recorded.

August 12, 1858. At a special meeting of the Corporation, at which twenty-one Corporators were present, the Senior Warden in the chair, it was resolved: that we ratify and approve of the act of the Vestry in according to the Rector, Rev. A. G. Mercer, the privilege of preaching in the Chapel during the summer months, and at any other time when most agreeable to him.

Resolved: that a committee furnish him with a copy of these resolutions, and express to Mr. Mercer our high appreciation of his services, and untiring zeal in our behalf, with the earnest desire of his people (who are united to him by ties of love, affection and respect) that he may long remain our Pastor and spiritual adviser.

Voted: that Dr. King and George C. Mason be that committee.

November 24, 1858. At a Vestry meeting the following resolution, offered by R. R. Hazard, Jr., was passed, with the amendment offered by Thomas R. Hunter:

Resolved: that a committee of five Corporators of Trinity Church be appointed to take the whole matter concerning the erection of a new Church edifice, into consideration, and that they be instructed to ascertain what suitable lots can be obtained for that purpose, and get the refusal of them for 60 days, and report at an adjourned meeting of this body.

Amended by Thomas R. Hunter:

And the committee be further directed to report on the present condition of Trinity Church building, what repairs are necessary, and the probable cost of the same.

The committee were R. R. Hazard, Jr., David King, W. S. Wetmore, Thomas R. Hunter and J. H. Cozzens.

February 21, 1859. Voted: that the present committee, appointed to ascertain what suitable lots can be had for the purpose of erecting a new Church edifice, and to report on the present condition of Trinity Church, be relieved of the duty of examining the Church.

- Voted: that a committee of three be appointed to examine as to the state of the Church, and, if necessary, to employ a mechanic to make a thorough examination and pay the expense of the same; and that they be requested to report, as soon as possible to the Vestry, previous to the Easter meeting.

March 1, 1859. The committee appointed to examine the Church, submitted the following to the Vestry:

The undersigned, a committee appointed on the 21st ult. to examine the condition of the Church edifice, respectfully report:

That they have employed Mr. Benjamin Easton to examine thoroughly the floor timbers and joists, and he reports to us, that the floor of the Church is supported by six oak timbers, 12 inches square, running from north to south, distance about fourteen feet apart. These 12-inch timbers are all sound, except under one column, and occasionally the end of one where it is framed into the sill. The floor joists, which frame into these timbers, are of oak, and about 3 by 5 inches, and are divided into 7 bays, the joists in each bay being about 14 feet long. In four of the bays the floor joists have been supported, by putting 3 x 7 joists under the middle of the bays, and shoring them up from the ground. Defective joists are found in every bay. A rough draft accompanying this will define the

number and position of the defective joists, as also the height from the floor joists to the ground.

The foundation of one of the columns on the north side is defective, which accounts for its having settled. The foundation of the pulpit is also defective and requires small repairs. That portion of the floor joists which is covered by about seventeen pews, in the N. E. corner, is so generally decayed that it will be necessary to take up the seventeen pews, and the floor there, in order to repair there; the space between this part of the floor and the ground being only about twelve inches, which would not admit of working underneath, as can probably be done in other parts. The pews can be replaced with but little or no damage. The floor joists which have been passed upon as sound, are in many instances defective from age and want of air, the life of the wood being gone. It is thought, however, that they might be relied upon for some years to come.

The underfloor, particularly in the easterly part, is much rotten. The sills have not been fully examined, but the belief is, that the north sill only will require repairs. Mr. Norman, of the committee, who is probably more familiar with the condition of the Church building than any one else, has examined the steeple, and other parts of the edifice, and finds a leak in the second section of the steeple. He states that the roof was shingled in 1827, that the same is now tight, but will require shingling before many years; that the clapboards are in suitable condition for painting, that the window frames are made of red cedar and are sound; that the sashes, for the most part, are good and do not need repairs; the blinds are also in good condition.

There is a slight leak over the dressing room, which may make it necessary to shingle the roof.

It is difficult to estimate the cost of repairs upon an old building, because the extent of repairs requisite to be made, cannot be fully ascertained, except as the work of repairing progresses.

We can, therefore, only estimate the cost of making good what we have already discovered to be defective, leaving the Vestry to make such further allowance, as their experience in repairing old houses will naturally suggest.

To put sound joists in the place of those known to be rotten,

take up the seventeen pews, and the floor beneath, and replace and repair the same, wedge up two columns, which support the gallery, repair the foundation of the pulpit, adjust or rebuild stone piers under the 12-inch timber, is estimated by Mr. Easton to cost:

For stock and labor,	\$220.00
Repairs of steeple,	10.00
Dressing room roof,	10.00
Sill,	75.00
Painting Church and steeple, two coats,	450.00
or one coat, \$250.	
	<hr/>
	\$765.00

All of which is respectfully submitted by
HENRY BULL, for the Committee.

Newport, March 1st, 1859.

The committee appointed to decide on the expediency of erecting a new Church, have determined that it is inexpedient at the present time to do so.

March 7, 1859. Voted: that Henry Bull and Charles Hunter be a committee to repair the Church edifice.

April 25, 1859. Annual Meeting. Twenty-one corporators present.

The following communication from the Senior Warden was read and received:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: After four years' service as Senior Warden of Trinity Church, I feel that I have a right to retire from that office; and in anticipation of any step you might otherwise see fit to take, I beg to decline, most decidedly, a re-election. Thanking you for the confidence you have been pleased to repose in me, I remain, Gentlemen, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. C. MASON.

The offices were filled as follows:

John H. Cozzens, *Senior Warden*.

M. C. Slocum, *Junior Warden*.

Benjamin Finch, David King, Henry Bull, Charles Hunter, Duncan C. Pell, Samuel Engs, Thomas R. Hunter, John D. Ogden, George C. Mason, Moses Norman, John N. Potter, *Vestrymen*.

Job T. Langley, *Secretary and Treasurer*.

Voted: that a committee be appointed to examine the Church, and report at the adjourned meeting, what repairs are necessary and the probable cost of the same; and that Henry Bull, Charles Hunter and Moses Norman be that committee.

May 2, 1859. The committee to examine the Church report, that it will cost from \$1200 to \$2000 to put the structure in good repair.

Voted: that the same committee be authorized to have the Church repaired and painted, at a cost not to exceed \$2000; and they were to have the clock in the steeple put in order.

On motion of Mr. Charles Hunter, Voted: that the above committee call on the Rector, to see if he has any objection to the replacing of the sounding board.³⁸

On motion of Dr. J. D. Ogden, it was voted: Whereas our Rector is about to officiate in his chapel during the summer months, the congregation most respectfully suggest that an invitation be extended to Bishop Clark and Rev. Dr. Hawks to officiate during his absence.

³⁸ Two months after the call of Rev. Dr. Mercer, he asked to have the sounding board removed, on the ground that it oppressed him when preaching. A committee was instructed to raise it a considerable height. The experiment did not answer, and it was taken down. To get it out of the Church it had to be cut in two. Dr. Mercer said he did not see that its removal made any difference; and in deference to the wishes of many persons, it was restored to its old place.

May 25, 1859. Special meeting of the Corporation; twenty-four corporators being present.

The following communication from the Rector was read by the chairman:

New York, May 6th, 1859.

Mr. John H. Cozzens,
Warden of Trinity Church;

Dear Sir: I write to answer the request made at the late Corporation meeting, viz.: that I should solicit the services of the Rev. Dr. Hawks, or Bishop Clark, during the summer.

I accede to the request, and shall write to one or both of these distinguished clergymen, or to any other the Corporation may hereafter name, and shall urge upon them my own wishes, as well as the wishes of the Corporation; presuming, of course, that the Corporation imply, or mean to imply, that they will be chargeable with the expense of such an arrangement.

Be so good as to communicate this letter to the Corporation, and believe me to be

Very respectfully,
A. G. MERCER.

Voted: that the communication from the Rector be received and placed on file.

On motion of Edward King, voted: that the Rector be requested to invite Bishop Clark to officiate during the summer months, and that five hundred dollars be raised to meet the expenses, and that the Corporation be responsible for the payment of the same.

On the house being called, including proxies, 26 voted aye, and 7 no.

Marshall C. Slocum offered the following resolution:

Resolved, that notice be given to the Rev. A. G. Mercer, that in the opinion of this Corporation, the present vacation of

three months during the summer, cannot be continued after this year, consistently with the welfare of Trinity Church.

The house being called, 21 voted aye, and 19 no.

At the next meeting, May 23, 1859, Mr. Duncan C. Pell sent in his resignation, as a member of the Vestry.

[It will be necessary here to digress to give, as briefly as possible, the history of the Chapel, known as "All Saints' Chapel," and which had already become a disturbing element of a serious nature.]

For a number of years prior to 1850, the seating capacity of Trinity Church was not equal to the demand of the summer population, when added to the congregation that regularly attended service there. That something should be done to meet the want was apparent. The summer people had no residences in the outlying districts, as at present. There was no Bellevue Avenue, no sites taken up by cottages along the Cliffs, on the south shore, or the harbor front; but it was quite the thing to be quartered in one of the popular hotels—the Ocean House, Atlantic, Bellevue and Fillmore—and the many excellent boarding houses, all within a comparatively short distance of Trinity Church.

There were three Episcopal churches in Newport—Trinity, Zion and Emmanuel. The latter was only a mission, designed to draw together the factory operatives (chiefly English) residing in the south part of the town, who stood greatly in need of religious teaching. The mission, although doing a good work, had but little attraction at that time for summer visitors; and it was not until some years later, through the indomitable efforts of the Rev. D. R. Brewer the founder of the mission, and his equally devoted successors, that it gained its present recognized position. The efforts of Zion Church to draw the floating population to it, though its location was equally eligible, were never successful; while Trinity Church was so crowded that, after every

available seat had been filled by the ushers, chairs were brought in and placed in the aisles, and still many turned away, for want of room.

To relieve this pressure, and to afford room for all, the Minister of the Parish, Rev. D. R. Brewer, devised the plan of a free chapel, within easy reach of the summer people on the hill. He had been, and so continued through life, a warm advocate of the free church system; and this was the first opportunity he had had to carry his theory into practice. His efforts were ably seconded by a few earnest workers; but chiefly by Miss Phebe C. Bull, who placed \$2500 at his disposal for this object—a sum that was subsequently increased by the same liberal hand. So unostentatiously was this done that but few persons, comparatively, knew of it, so reticent was she in regard to her charities: in support of which “her income mostly,” says one who was in the way of knowing, “and much of her inheritance, was expended.”

A lot of land, on Church street, was purchased of the late John H. Gilliat, the southwest corner of his estate, containing 6363 square feet, for \$500—the site later known as the DeBlois Cottage—and plans for a chapel were obtained of the late Richard Upjohn, architect. This was in April, 1850.

The movement was viewed with alarm by some of the permanent congregation of Trinity Church, but there was no open opposition. They were wise enough to give it, as Mr. Brewer had counseled them, the test of one season, at the expiration of which time it was found to be no detriment to the Parish, and nothing more was heard of it till it had passed into the hands of Rev. A. G. Mercer, D. D., Rector of Trinity Church, who decided to remove the building to a new location. So long as the fee remained in Rev. Mr. Brewer, it was simply known as “the Chapel.” During the summer months there were always visiting clergymen in town, who were ready, at the request of

Mr. Brewer, to fill the pulpit; Mr. Brewer seldom preaching there himself.

So it went on till 1855, when Mr. Brewer, for reasons given in his letter on pages 158-9, retired from Trinity Church, gave up a salary that was a sure thing, and went down to the little mission, Emmanuel Church. There he labored to improve the people by whom he was surrounded, depending wholly on the scanty offerings, and the contributions of those who saw how much good he was doing. The Chapel, for it had no other name, was opened as usual during the summer season. The people of the mission (Emmanuel) were anxious to have a spire to their church edifice: there did not appear to be any way to gain this end, save by the sale of the Chapel, and Mr. Brewer, with that object in view, in the spring of 1857 offered the Chapel for sale, for \$4000. The writer was asked to solicit subscriptions for the purchase of the building, to be given to Rev. Dr. Mercer, Rector of Trinity Church, to be held by him as it had been held by Rev. Mr. Brewer.

There were those who were so sanguine as to believe that the money could be raised without difficulty; but this was a mistake. The subscriptions came in slowly: so slowly as to create some alarm in the minds of the principal movers, lest Rev. Dr. Mercer should be annoyed (hearing of the lukewarmness on the subject) by the apparent indifference. The effort to raise the money was continued, and by the 15th of July, 1857, the sum of \$4000 was raised, and the property passed into the hands of Rev. Dr. Mercer. No objection was made to his holding it and using it for the benefit of those for whom it was designed, any more than when it belonged to Rev. Mr. Brewer; and even when the Vestry were asked to grant Rev. Dr. Mercer the privilege of preaching there during the three summer months, that wish was gratified; nor was there anything to lead one to suppose that this arrangement might not have continued

for years, without the least jar, had not Dr. Mercer decided the following Spring, 1858, to remove the Chapel to a new location, enlarge it by adding transepts, and then offering sittings for rental. The opposition to such a move was strong, and over it the congregation became greatly excited. The following year the excitement was even greater.

At this juncture, to remove the cause of the unhappy state of feelings, a prominent gentleman, who annually spent his summers in Newport, and whose name was not to be disclosed unless his offer was accepted, made, through the writer, a proposition to Rev. Dr. Mercer to become the purchaser of the Chapel, paying for the same \$4000, the sum that Dr. Mercer's friends had paid for it. There is no record of this proposition other than the papers in the hands of the writer. The following was the proposition:

"Whereas the Rev. Dr. A. G. Mercer has this day sold and conveyed to me by a good and sufficient deed, the lease of the piece of land at the corner of Cottage and Beach streets, with all his right and title thereto, he having erected thereon a Chapel for religious services.

"Now know all men by these presents, that in consideration of one dollar to me paid by said Rev. Dr. A. G. Mercer, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, I do promise and agree that so long as said Rev. Dr. A. G. Mercer shall consent to perform the services of said Chapel, and remain an inhabitant of Newport, I will annually offer to lease the pews in said Chapel to his friends who shall make application therefor, on or before the 1st of July in each year, during the above-named term.

"And the Pewholders, assumed to be eighty in number, and each pew having a vote, shall then by vote invite him, or some other suitable person, to supply the pulpit for the season.

"From the proceeds of the first sixty of said pews leased,

the owner of the premises is to deduct, and retain, the sum of five dollars on each pew, for his own use, and the remainder from all the pews, after such deduction, is to be paid over to a committee of said Pewholders, to be by them annually expended in improvements on the Chapel, the pay of the officiating clergymen, and in such other manner as may be annually voted.

“In witness whereof the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals, this——day of——in the year of our Lord, 1859.”

No notice was taken by Dr. Mercer of the proposition, other than the remark that he would give it consideration. At the expiration of several weeks, no reply having come from Dr. Mercer, the proposition was withdrawn. The withdrawal called forth the following note from Rev. Dr. Mercer:

My dear Mr. Mason,

Will you be so good as to present my earnest thanks to the noble gentleman and friend, who made the offer as to the Chapel, and say to him that I did not suppose he intended any limit as to the time of the answer, or I should have given one before this. Say also that the delay was not from any decision that the proposition was “undesirable”—my mind indeed tended to think so—but no decision was reached, and I was sorry when your letter came, announcing that the proposition was withdrawn.

It is proper that I should make this explanation to the friend you represent, to whom repeat expressions of my deep gratitude, and believe me

Very truly,

A. G. MERCER.

Saturday, July 30th, 1859.

Other facts not already given in connection with the Chapel, as drawn from the records will here appear in their order.

To come back to the Records of Trinity Church:

At a special meeting of the Corporation, June 2, 1859, a

communication from the Rector was read, declaring that the Corporation, as indicated by their resolutions, had prejudged his motive in regard to his plan concerning the Chapel, and resigning his privilege of preaching in the Chapel during the summer months; whereupon it was

Resolved: that David King, William S. Wetmore, Benjamin Finch, Thomas R. Hunter and M. C. Slocum, be a committee to take into consideration the letter of Rev. Mr. Mercer to the Corporation (communicated this day) and to draw up an answer to said letter, if in their opinion an answer be required.

June 7, 1859. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation.

The committee appointed June 2d, to take into consideration the letter from Rev. Mr. Mercer, presented a majority and a minority report.

The majority report was signed by David King, William S. Wetmore and M. C. Slocum, and consisted of a statement of facts and reasons, in explanation and justification of the resolution passed by the Corporation, in consequence of the removal and enlargement of the Chapel, and the apprehended difficulties and divisions arising from it.

The minority report was signed by Thomas R. Hunter and Benjamin Finch, and urged Rev. Mr. Mercer to preach in the Chapel during the summer months, and to supply the pulpit of Trinity in the meantime, he to invite Bishop Clark to officiate.

While the reports were under discussion, and before the question was taken, the following letter from Dr. Mercer was presented:

My dear Mr. Mason:

Permit me thro' you to withdraw my letter entirely—if that will give peace to the counsels of the Corporation.

Very respectfully,

A. G. MERCER.

I mean to resign as before the privilege—but to *withdraw the letter*.

Voted: that the request of Rev. A. G. Mercer, to be allowed to withdraw the letter of June 2d, be acceded to, and his resignation of the privilege to preach in the Chapel during the summer months, be accepted.

March 22, 1860. Special meeting of the Corporation; twenty-seven corporators being present: when the following communication from the Rector was read, received, and ordered to be recorded:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

The Rector of Trinity Church, seeking to promote the interests and peace of the Church, respectfully begs leave to offer, in brief, the following plan;—premising that if this outline meets the wishes of the Corporation, there will be no difficulty in adjusting any details afterwards.

1st. He proposes that an efficient Assistant be appointed, whose duty it shall be to preach during the absence of the Rector, and specially to aid him in the other duties of the Parish.

2nd. That two additional months of vacation be allowed the Rector during the Winter or early Spring.

3rd. That the services of the Bishop of the Diocese, be solicited for two or three months of the Summer—to preach alternately with the Rector in the Church and Chapel.

4th. In order to carry out the above arrangement, the Rector proposes to relinquish \$1000 or \$1200 of his salary, or any other sum necessary to carry out the design—though he believes \$1200 to be ample.

THIS IS THE PLAN.

According to this plan, Gentlemen, the salary of the Rector will be, say \$800;—he will have the general charge of the Parish at all times;—he will preach unremittingly in the Church for nearly eight months of the year—while the times of his absence will be supplied (out of his present salary) by the presence of the Bishop and an effective Assistant: and so the Church will be maintained in such a character and with such an efficiency as has been unknown heretofore.

Gentlemen,—I have for several months weighed this plan with scrupulous care—keeping in view first of all the interests of Trinity Church, and I give you my judgment under a full sense of responsibility, that in no other way can those interests be so well provided for.

I offer this plan from the earnest wish I have for the restoration of universal kindness among us. Let us be united! If we charge each other with mistakes, or even wrong done in the time past, let that be forgotten! We must now take care of the future. We must now see to it that the divisions of one year be not made permanent, with all the disasters consequent upon them.

And now, Gentlemen, I leave the matter with you, with a single request, which I press affectionately and most earnestly upon you. It is this. Whatever your views may prove to be, examine and discuss this matter calmly and in a kind spirit. For the decision before you must be so serious in its effects for good or evil on this Church and Community that it ought to be reached in no temper but that of honorable concern to find out what is best,—and with the fairest construction of each other's views.

If this proposition fails to produce harmony unaffected and cordial, it has according to my views failed utterly. And what I mean by harmony, is not merely a majority of the votes of the Church, or votes of all, but that I may have the united hearts of the people.

Signed:

A. G. MERCER, Rector.

Newport, March 19, 1860.

The motion of Thomas R. Hunter, that the question be put off until Easter, and that one hundred copies be printed and a copy sent to each corporator, was lost.

A motion was then made by Benjamin Finch that the communication be adopted.

Including proxy votes, aye 44, no 17.

Voted: that the result be communicated to the Rector, and that a committee of four, Benjamin Finch, John H. Cozzens, R. R. Hazard and Henry Bull, confer with him in relation to the details of his communication.

April 9, 1860. Annual Meeting; twenty-seven corporators being present.

Henry Bull offered the following resolutions:

1. Resolved: that it is the paramount duty of every Christian Church to discountenance all measures which tend to disturb the peace and harmony, or the unity of its members.

Passed unanimously.

2. Resolved: that in the opinion of this meeting the proposition of the Rector, which was submitted to and adopted by the Corporation at their last meeting, has failed to produce "harmony unaffected and cordial."

On motion of Samuel Engs the house was called, including proxies, aye 33, no 44.

3. Resolved: that we entertain feelings of the utmost kindness towards our Rector, and wish it to be distinctly understood, that in our action on his proposition we are actuated solely by a desire to promote the cause of Christianity and insure the permanent prosperity of Trinity Church.

Passed unanimously.

4. Resolved: that this Corporation recognizes no building or edifice for public worship as appertaining to Trinity Church, except the Church edifice, and the School House on Church street.

Passed unanimously.

5. Resolved: that the Senior Warden be requested to forward copies of these resolutions to the Rector of this Church, and to the Bishop of the Diocese.

Aye 32, no 44.

On motion of Thomas R. Hunter, to reconsider the vote of

the adoption of the resolution of the Rector, passed at the last meeting: aye 32, no 44.

On motion of Samuel Engs the meeting adjourned to the following Wednesday afternoon, to hear the report of the committee on details.

April 11, 1860. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation. Present twenty corporators, holding 56 proxies.

At the reading of the minutes the Secretary, taking offence at the manner in which his record was called in question, abruptly resigned, and R. R. Hazard, Jr., was appointed Secretary pro tem. The President, Dr. David King, then resigned, and there being no one chosen in his place, the meeting dispersed.

April 19, 1860. Meeting of the Corporation.

On motion of Charles Hunter, the following protest was read, received and ordered to be recorded:

We the undersigned, members of the Corporation of Trinity Church, solemnly protest against the adoption of the proposals of the Rector, lately submitted to the Corporation, for the following reasons:

First. Because regarding the Church as a trust in the hands of the Corporation, as well as the Rector, for the accomplishment of certain great objects, we think that a plan involving in its execution a wide departure from old paths, or a marked deviation from the accustomed mode of procedure, should receive before its adoption, not only the mature deliberation of the Rector, but also the mature deliberation of the Corporation. Our first objection, therefore, is founded on the fact that the Corporation have adopted this new plan without mature deliberation.

Second. Because in the adoption of these proposals, we believe that the Corporation have not made the distinction between the intention and the wisdom of the plan; but have confounded both, and in giving the Rector their hearts, have incidentally and without reflection, compromised their judgment. Avowing, therefore, feelings of great kindness towards the Rector,

and disclaiming all distrust in his intention; our second objection is, the want of practical wisdom in a plan, which in a degree separates the poor from the rich, excites an unhappy rivalry between a new private Chapel and the old established Church, which diverts, distracts and divides the attention of the Rector between two fields of ministerial labor, either of which is wide enough to demand the exclusive time, heart and devotion of any one man.

Third. Because the proposal connecting us with a private Chapel, and placing us under the care of two clergymen, can be considered in reference to our past history, only as an experimental plan, having in view high objects with regard to humanity in general, but necessarily in the accomplishment of those objects, revolutionizing our old accustomed modes of procedure; placing, indeed, in the foreground the advancement of Episcopacy by eloquent preaching, but rendering the particular interests of Trinity Church subsidiary to this principal design, and subjecting to the hazard of an uncertain, and what we believe a fatal experiment, its peace, harmony and permanent welfare.

Fourth. Because that part of the plan which designs the opening of a pewed and rented Chapel, for the accommodation of wealthy visitors, during the summer season, having already been tried without the consent of the Corporation, during the past year, has produced much dissatisfaction, and in various ways interrupted the prosperity and disturbed the harmony of the Church.

Fifth. Because the intimate connection of the Rector with a private pewed and rented Chapel, and his exclusive control and management of its revenues, together with his contemplated vacation of three months, at least, in the year, from his parochial duties, will obviously be attended by moral effects, adverse, and indeed, disastrous to the cause of religion and humanity in our neighborhood.

Sixth. Because the institution of a new Church will diminish the strength and impair the prosperity of the three existing Churches, which now furnish Episcopal accommodation amply sufficient for this community.

Seventh. Because the plan proposes the institution of a new

Church, without having previously secured a proper acquiescence of the neighboring Churches; and because when a new Church is called for, it is in our opinion the province of the Bishop of the Diocese, rather than of a Presbyter of a single parish, to determine and to pronounce upon what is demanded in that regard—for the best interests of the Church and humanity in our midst.

DAVID KING, for self, Anna Morris Stout and
Sarah Gibbs,
R. S. CLARK,
GEORGE JONES,
EDWARD KING,
THOS. R. HUNTER,
W. C. GIBBS,
HENRY BULL, and for M. F. H. Bull,
JOHN D. OGDEN, and for C. C. Moore, H. C.
DeRham, R. Morgan Gibbes, D. B. Fear-
ing, J. J. Pringle, H. A. Wright and Hen-
ry Tiffany.

On motion of Benjamin Finch, chairman of the committee, the letter of the Rector, withdrawing his plan, was ordered to be received, read and recorded, as follows, viz.:

Gentlemen:

I am deeply grieved to find that the plan I presented to the Corporation has failed to secure the harmony I hoped for. When I first matured the plan, I thought it would meet every wish, but it has not proved so; having failed to produce harmony, it has failed of the purpose for which it was presented. I must, therefore, with great regret, decline entering upon it. Were I not to do so I would convert a plan intended for good into an instrument of discord.

Very respectfully,

A. G. MERCER.

The Chairman of the Committee of the Corporation, will please to present the above.

Charles Hunter offered the following resolution, which was seconded:

Resolved: that as the connection of the Rev. Dr. A. G. Mercer with Trinity Church has led to unhappy differences, and, we fear, incurable disturbance of that harmony which ought to mark the intercourse of members of all Christian churches, he be requested to withdraw from his connection therewith.

The house being called, the vote stood: aye 30, no 34.

The following officers then resigned:

John H. Cozzens, *Senior Warden*.

William G. Seabury, *Junior Warden*

Job T. Langley, *Secretary and Treasurer*.

Benjamin Finch, Samuel Engs, Job T. Langley, Jethro C. Carr, George C. Mason, John N. Potter, *Vestrymen*.

The resignations were accepted, and the places of the retiring members were filled as follows:

M. C. Slocum, *Senior Warden*.

Theodore R. Helme, *Junior Warden*.

John D. Ogden, *Secretary*.

Henry Bull, *Treasurer*.

R. R. Hazard, Jr., John D. Ogden, William E. Dennis, Henry Tiffany, William C. Gibbs, H. Allen Wright, *Vestrymen*.

April 26, 1860. Special meeting of the Corporation. The following communication was presented:

To the Clerk of the Corporation of Trinity Church;

Sir: I give you notice that my resignation of the Rectorship of Trinity Church will be formally presented (thro' you) on Thursday next. This notice should have been sent to you immediately, but I have been waiting for some official communication of the proceedings of the last meeting.

I am very respectfully,

A. G. MERCER.

Saturday, April 21st, 1860.

On the above there was endorsed the following: "The above note was written some time since, but I did not know to whom it could be properly addressed. Mr. Hazard's note is at this moment received (half past 4 p. m.) and from the contents I presume it proper to address it to him. The request of his note will complied with."

The following communication from the Rector was then presented by Mr. Finch:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church, by the hand of Mr. Benj. Finch.

Newport, April 21st, 1860,
Saturday morning.

Gentlemen:

I waited thro' yesterday and thro' the evening, expecting an official report of the proceedings of Thursday. But, as it has not come, I am unwilling to wait longer before sending you, as I now do, notice of my resignation of the Rectorship of Trinity Church. I regret that I was not able to do this before the motion of Mr. Charles Hunter was presented. It was my purpose after the formal withdrawal of my plan, and after an opportunity had been given for those opposed to it, to present or suggest their own terms of harmony, in case all these efforts should prove fruitless, to send in immediately my resignation of the Rectorship; as then every method of reconciliation would have been exhausted.

But to my surprise and sorrow I was informed (during the sitting of the Corporation) of Mr. Hunter's motion. To prevent the consideration of such a motion, I immediately wrote a letter of resignation, but from the time spent in endeavoring to get information (for I did not even know that the motion was seconded, much less that there was any disposition to entertain it) I was unable, unfortunately, tho' I eagerly used every effort, to get my letter before that body until the vote was taken. I have thus been forced, by means of unavoidable ignorance of the doings and intention of the Corporation, to suffer a wrong, which,

had I been present, or had I supposed such a thing possible, I could have prevented.

The state of the facts, then, Gentlemen, is this. At the first moment after I had tested the views of the Corporation as to my plan; tho' the vote stood 44 for it to 17 against, I saw as clearly and stated decisively as I now do, that the plan had failed entirely of its purpose.

It was due, however, to the friends of the plan to await the result of the Easter meeting. When the results of that meeting were known, I sought the earliest opportunity to withdraw the plan: and it was at the moment that I did this and at a moment when one of my special friends in the Corporation was inviting new plans from those who opposed mine, and when he repeatedly, and in every way, assured the meeting that any plan which promised heartfelt harmony, would be gladly received by me; at that moment the *motion of Mr. Charles Hunter was presented and considered*. Altho' that motion did not prevail, the fact of its being so offered and so entertained, without allowing me one moment to turn from my offer of peace to an honorable withdrawal from the Church. This gives me, I confess, great pain.

It is due to myself to make some such statement as I have now made; for I would have no one hereafter to believe that I knowingly allowed any part of my Church to attempt such extremes while I remained Rector of it.

And now, Gentlemen, I respectfully request you to accept this paper as my resignation of the Rectorship—a resignation to be regarded as peremptory and not to be re-considered, and I respectfully request that it be allowed to take effect at the earliest moment the interests of the Church will allow. It is my strong and urgent wish that it should take effect *immediately*; but not if it will sacrifice any of the interests of the Church. In my judgment there will be no such sacrifice, and so I feel free to request an immediate withdrawal.

Gentlemen of the Corporation, I bid you farewell—with the best wishes for the real good of every one of you and of your families; and in the earnest hope that Peace and all the fruits

of Peace, may spring up among you. Permit me to offer thro' you a kind farewell to all my people and to the great body of them the expression of my special love and gratitude.

I am very respectfully,

A. G. MERCER.

This letter having been read, was on motion ordered to be recorded.

On motion of Mr. Finch, the resignation of the Rector was unanimously accepted.

The following resolution was then offered by Mr. Finch:

Resolved: that the Parish being without a Minister no person shall receive a call from this Corporation until due notice be given to the communicants of the Parish, and the assent of a majority of them be first had.

This motion was declared by the chair to be out of order, as conflicting with the Charter and the rights of the Corporation. An appeal to the house on this decision having been made by Mr. Samuel Engs, the chair was sustained by a vote of 42 to 26.

The following resolution was moved by William C. Gibbs:

Resolved: that the Treasurer be authorized to pay to the Rev. Dr. Mercer, his salary to June 4, 1860, the end of his official year. Passed unanimously.

Governor Gibbs also offered the following resolution:

Resolved: that we tender to John H. Cozzens, Esq., late Senior Warden, and William G. Seabury, Esq., late Junior Warden, and to Job T. Langley, Esq., late Secretary and Treasurer of this Corporation, our thanks for the able and faithful manner in which they have performed the laborious duties of their several offices during the past ecclesiastical year, that we sincerely regret that an honest expression of the opinion of a minority of the Corporation should have induced them to resign.

Resolved: that the Secretary be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the above named gentlemen.

Passed unanimously.

James Birkhead was elected eleventh Vestryman, in place of H. Allen Wright, declined.

Edward King was elected eighth Vestryman, in place of Henry Tiffany, declined.

Charles Hunter was elected Junior Warden, in place of Theodore R. Helme, declined.

[Zion Church, for some time opposed to the Chapel, and particularly after it was removed to its new site, now became more aggressive under Rev. William Colvin Brown, the Rector, seconded by Rev. Mr. Wingate, who but recently ordained as Priest, was then Rector of Emmanuel Church, his first parish.]

[At a special meeting of the Vestry of Zion Church, April 7, 1860, the following preamble, resolutions and protests were unanimously passed:

“Whereas the Wardens and Vestry of Zion Church, having considered the matter of the opening of a Chapel on the Hill, in this city, within the limits of this Parish, by the Rev. Dr. Mercer, designated ‘All Saints’ Chapel,’ which Chapel is represented as belonging to Trinity Church, but which, on the contrary, is well known to be the *private property* of Mr. Mercer, who caused the same to be erected and prepared as a place of public worship, without consulting, as in duty bound, the other settled Episcopal Ministers in the city, as to the *necessity*, or expediency of such a measure, and the use of such building being of course dependent upon the exclusive option of its owner, whose authority to occupy the same and hold service there, and to appropriate the income derived therefrom to his own benefit, is not recognized by the Canons of the Church, or compatible

with Episcopal usage—particularly when its occupancy is calculated to embarrass and impair the usefulness of the already established parishes in the aforesaid limits: therefore,

“Resolved, unanimously: that the Vestry of Zion Church feel compelled, under the circumstances, to consider the occupancy of the building or Chapel, inasmuch as it is *unnecessary*, and *uncalled for* accommodations are thereby provided; in proof of which many pews in Zion Church are, and have been, since the erection of said Chapel, left unoccupied, and during the ‘watering season’ the pecuniary interest of the Corporation consequently injured, in comparison with former years, to the extent of nearly 20 per cent. of its income.

“Resolved, also: that we view with no less surprise than regret, the recent communication from the Rev. Dr. Mercer, of Trinity Church, in which it is proposed to invite the Bishop of Rhode Island, to participate in a policy so evidently detrimental to the growth and prosperity of at least *one* important Parish—especially when it is considered that, in the maintenance and exercise of the Bishop’s high ministerial functions with every branch of his Diocese, he should be governed, as we cannot doubt he will be, by motives of the most equitable and affectionate character.

“This Vestry, therefore, feels constrained to *protest*, rightfully and earnestly, and with all due respect and consideration, against the opening of said Chapel, for regular Episcopal service, and recommend that the Rector of this Parish be requested to transmit to the Right Rev. Bishop Clark, a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions, with this remonstrance (duly attested), and take such measures to legally and harmoniously prevent the accomplishment of the plan proposed by Mr. Mercer, as he shall deem necessary.”

A protest was accordingly sent to the Bishop of the Diocese,

who cited the parties interested in the question involved, to appear before him, at a meeting he had called for the 27th of April, 1860. A room for the hearing was secured at the Aquid-neck House.]

CHAPTER VII.

1860-1861.

The meeting, composed of the Reverend Bishop, Rev. Dr. Mercer, Rev. Mr. Brown, Rector of Zion Church, Rev. Mr. Wingate, Rector of Emmanuel Church, and a number of members of the congregations of the above churches, was called to order by Bishop Clark, and George C. Mason was elected Secretary.

Bishop Clark then stated the object of the meeting, in writing, as follows:

A protest having been made by the Rector and Vestry of Zion Church, Newport, against the Rev. Dr. Mercer's officiating in the Chapel occupied by him during a portion of the past year, and the Rev. Dr. Mercer having declared to me officially that it is his purpose to open this Chapel as usual, and a further communication having been received, signed by 120 communicants of Trinity Church, and 17 other persons, worshippers in said Church, asking for an investigation of the whole matter involved in the Protest of the Rector and Vestry of Zion Church; I have desired the Rev. Dr. Mercer, and the Rev. Mr. Brown, Rector of Zion Church, to appear before me, with such other persons as they may respectively see fit to invite, for a hearing of the points involved in the controversy.

THOMAS M. CLARK,
Bishop of Rhode Island.

Newport, April 27th, 1860.

Rev. Dr. Mercer called for the protest from Zion Church, which was read by the Bishop, with the letter that accompanied it, from Rev. Mr. Brown.

Dr. Mercer asked if it was not in order for the parties protesting to substantiate their charges; to which Mr. Brown replied that all would be substantiated, and then went into some general statement that the Chapel during the time of its existence had been an injury to the prosperity of Zion and Emmanuel Churches.

Mr. Finch then had the floor, and called for a statement of the Annual Reports of the Treasurer of Zion Church, from the time the Chapel was built to the present day. To this the Treasurer, Mr. George Cozzens, replied that the accounts had been so kept that it would be difficult to produce them in a form that would bear on the present question.

Some objection having been made to the protest coming from the Vestry and not from the Rector of Zion Church, the Bishop stated that in accordance with the Canons of the Church, he could only recognize the protest of the Rector of Zion Church, and not that of the Vestry, and his decision would rest solely on the former. The letter from Mr. Brown and the protest of the Vestry of Zion Church, were accordingly withdrawn.

Rev. Mr. Brown then stated that he protested against the formation of a new church, as, in his opinion, there was already ample accommodation for all who desired to worship in the Episcopal Church.

Dr. Mercer replied that it was his intention to open the Chapel as such, and not as a parish church.

At this point there was a misunderstanding as to the grounds of the protest, and the Bishop called upon Mr. Brown to state in precise terms his objection to the opening of the Chapel.

Mr. Brown accordingly stated, that the Chapel being within the limits of Trinity and Zion Churches, the Rectors of these parishes should have been consulted by Dr. Mercer before open-

ing it, which he had failed to do; that there was sufficient accommodation for Church purposes in the city, and that the opening of the Chapel would be an injury to existing churches.

The question of parish limits was now called up, and the Bishop read the Canon bearing on the subject.

Dr. Charles Cotton asked Dr. Mercer if he had received a copy of the protest of Zion Church previous to the meeting; to which Dr. Mercer replied that he had not, and that he knew nothing of its points until called upon to answer them.

At which Dr. Cotton and Mr. Samuel Engs asked Mr. Brown to give his reason for not serving Dr. Mercer with a copy of the protest: who replied that Dr. Mercer knew all about it (which Dr. Mercer denied) and that that was sufficient; that he had not been requested by the Bishop, as has been stated, to furnish Dr. Mercer with a copy, but that the Bishop had made a suggestion to that effect, which he did not feel called upon to carry out.

The attention of the meeting being again called to the question, it was ruled by the Bishop that "the Chapel as it now stands is in the Ward of Zion and Trinity Churches, according to the strict letter of the Canon."

The other allegations, that there was already sufficient Church accommodation in the city, and that the opening of another Church would tend to the injury of the existing churches, were now brought up.

To meet these allegations Dr. Mercer read a letter from Rev. D. R. Brewer, a former Rector of Trinity Church, and subsequently Rector of Emmanuel Church, who founded both Emmanuel Church and the Chapel, and was the parent of the free-church movement in Newport.

"I was sorry to learn," said Mr. Brewer, "that the Chapel had again been made a cause of difficulty and controversy. It was so when first proposed and erected. Some of my own

parishioners in Trinity Church were decidedly hostile to it, fearing it might do serious injury to the old Church. The Rector and congregation of Zion Church were still more alarmed, for they looked upon the little free Chapel as a box-trap, designed to catch all the rich visitors, who could not be taken in by speculators in pews at Trinity. The Rector of Zion urged the Bishop to use his authority, if he had it, to prevent the Chapel being opened for service. The Bishop did not do this; the Chapel was opened on the day announced, and kept open, both on Sundays and week days, through the whole summer. It was well filled with people, and was a favorite place of worship with the visiting clergy. The anticipated evil did not come. Trinity Church was unharmed. The Rector of Zion officiated himself in the Chapel more than once. It thus became a recognized and established Chapel, with none to molest or make afraid. And the free-seat plan worked so well that it became the pioneer or seed of the *Free Parish Church* in the south part of the town."

Mr. Brown asked if the Chapel, when first opened, was not recognized as a part of Trinity Church, and if it had not at that time the approval and sanction of the Vestry of that Church.

Mr. Engs and Dr. Cotton declared that the Vestry and congregation were alike opposed to it—not officially, or by any direct action, but decidedly opposed to it, and the same feeling prevailed when it was proposed to attach it to the Church, at a subsequent day.

Mr. Brown then called attention to the position of Emmanuel Church, which he said was dependent on the summer visitors, who would not be likely to go there, if an attractive Chapel was opened for them in their immediate neighborhood.

Mr. Finch said that coercive measures would never fill a Church; that if the people were not attracted by the pastor or the services of the Church, they could not be forced into it; that they had a right to make their own selection, and if not

allowed (through the strict administration of arbitrary law) to do so, they would either shut themselves up at home on the Sabbath, or wander off to other denominations, where they would be warmly welcomed. But the Chapel could be moved over the line into the adjoining ward, where it would be beyond the jurisdiction of the parties who were so desirous of shutting it up.

Mr. Brown met this by saying that if the Chapel were moved, Dr. Mercer would be in a worse fix than before, for in that case he would have to get the consent of the two resident clergymen before it could be opened, and read Canon IX, Section 4, to sustain what he had said.

The Bishop ruled that the Canon cited did not touch the point in question, as this was a Chapel and not a parish Church; and he added, he did not wish to weigh the merits of any plan for a new parish, but rather keep to the question before the meeting.

Mr. Brown stated there was ample Church accommodation in the city, and this ought to weigh heavily.

Dr. Cotton declared there was not accommodation enough, and had not been in Trinity Church for a number of years.

Mr. Brown called upon the Rector of Emmanuel Church to state the condition of his Church, so far as related to attendance, and asked if he could not have seated a hundred more persons than the average attendance last summer. Mr. Wingate said he could have seated about fifty more in summer, and about two hundred and fifty more in winter.

Mr. George Cozzens, Treasurer of Zion Church, when called upon, stated that the income had grown so small that the Corporation had been forced to increased taxation and subscriptions to meet their liabilities. When asked if he knew of any falling off in attendance growing out of the Chapel, replied that he could call to mind two or three instances—the Roser, Mr. Ray and the Ashhurst families. Dr. Mercer rose to state that Mr.

Ashhurst was his particular friend, and would have followed him, it mattered not where he officiated.

Mr. Cozzens, when asked by Mr. Engs to state the amount of pecuniary loss the Church had sustained, said the Sunday collections last summer did not amount to more than \$25, and that the whole loss to the Church during the summer was probably \$225; which loss he believed was the result of opening the Chapel.

Mr. Brown urged that not only Zion and Emmanuel Churches were opposed to the opening of the Chapel, but a large and influential majority of the Corporation of Trinity Church decidedly objected to it; and was asked by Mr. Engs how he knew what were the views of the Corporation of the latter Church, and what were the views of the communicants on this subject.

The Bishop said he had a paper connected with another matter, but its concluding words would show what were the feelings of a large number of the communicants of Trinity Church, on this question, and read as follows:

To the Right Rev. Thomas M. Clark, Bishop of the Diocese of Rhode Island;

Rt. Rev. and Dear Sir:

We, the undersigned, Church members and members of the congregation of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I., do solemnly make and sign the following statement, which is drawn from us by the deep disgrace that has befallen our venerable Church—not with the hope of effacing the deep wrong done to our beloved Rector, for that were impossible; but justice to ourselves demands that the whole truth be brought to your knowledge at an early day. And, to be as brief as possible, and not to enter upon the previous difficulties—a painful subject, and one not necessary now to touch, we have here only to do with the recent effort to force him from the Church.

We therefore solemnly declare that one year of great forbearance on the part of the Rector and his friends went by, and then,

to remove all difficulties, and to restore harmony in his Church, our Rector did, in a high and Christian spirit, and at great personal sacrifice, make a proposition to his people (a copy of which is herewith forwarded) which, it was thought, would commend itself to every unbiased member of the congregation.

This proposition was accepted by a very large majority (44 to 17) and, indeed, on its first presentation it seemed to force the assent of the opposition. The corporators from New York and elsewhere, judging it by its own merits, almost unanimously approved of it; in several instances stating that its only fault was that it did injustice to the Rector himself. As to his people—the permanent Church; those most dependent on him for the sacred offices of his ministry; those whose sorrows he has borne, whose hearts he has aimed to improve, and raise in gratitude for unnumbered blessings—his own people—had spoken out their wishes clearly and unmistakably.

But a small minority, from motives we do not inquire into, and by such representations and influences as they chose to offer, succeeded in silencing some and changing others, of the votes of distant corporators, who, it must be remembered have but a limited part in the real interests of the Church, and are necessarily ignorant of its most vital concerns.

With such aid from abroad, an unsuccessful attempt was made at the Easter meeting to repeal the previous vote. The vote on this occasion may be analyzed as follows: whole number 76, 58 of the number being permanent corporators in the Church. Of these 58, 42 supported the Rector, and of the 16 who opposed him, 6, at least, rarely enter the Church edifice. Again: of the 76 votes cast, 48 were those of communicants, and of this number 38 supported the Rector, and 10 opposed him.

It should be here stated, that at the Easter meeting, a communication, signed by 75 communicants, was offered as an expression of their approval of the Rector's proposition. These signers are, with one or two exceptions, not corporators, but permanent communicants of the Church. A copy of this communication is annexed.

A committee was appointed by the Corporation to confer with

the Rector for the purpose of arranging the details of his plan, and to report at an adjourned meeting: but the Rector, in submitting his plan to the Corporation, had stated it was offered solely for the sake of producing harmony, unaffected and cordial: and as, through the agency of a few persons, the object was now defeated, he therefore did, at the adjourned Easter meeting, withdraw the plan. A copy of the withdrawal is herewith forwarded.

The reading of this withdrawal was opposed: the opposition declaring it to be their determination that their protest should take precedence on the records. In the course of the debate the correctness of the minutes of the previous meeting, as recorded, was called in question in a manner that forced the Secretary, in justice to himself, to resign his office, and after several ineffectual attempts to elect a Secretary *pro tem.*, the opposition abruptly left the meeting, and all business was at a stand for the time being.

At the renewal of the meeting at a subsequent day, although the first business was to receive the report of the committee appointed as above, the opposition persisted in urging that their protest should take precedence, and the supporters of the plan, for the sake of peace, and to remove every obstacle to the restoration of harmony, gave way. The protest was accordingly read, and placed on record. The communication from the Rector then followed, and was also received.

This done, the gentleman who presented the letter of withdrawal, and who represented the Rector's views, stated in a slow and solemn manner, and carefully repeated and reiterated the statement under various forms, "that there was nothing a Christian minister could do, that the Rector was not ready for; and that whatever plan the Corporation could offer, which promised harmony to the Church, the Rector would gladly and warmly enter into." Thus in every way inviting all methods of conciliation from all persons: an offer that was met by a resolution requesting the Rector to resign the rectorship of the parish; which motion was lost, though supported by a large minority.

These facts, Right Reverend and Dear Sir, we present for your consideration, and in view of the protest emanating from

the Rector of Zion Church, we earnestly hope that you will thoroughly investigate the whole matter, and extend to our beloved Pastor the right to hold services in the Chapel, where we may worship in peace, and in peace offer up the prayer—"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

All of which is most respectfully offered by
Your Humble and Obedient Servants.

[The writer has only a copy of the above letter, without the subscribing signatures.]

The above paper was signed by one hundred and forty-seven persons, of whom it was claimed one hundred and twenty were communicants.

Following the reading of the paper, Mr. Finch rose to reply to the remark of Mr. Brown, that the Chapel had been a serious injury to Zion Church, and stated that in the early history of the Chapel Zion Church was very prosperous, that the falling of in its receipts, and the embarrassment complained of, was traceable to the fact that the late Rector was unpopular and not calculated to keep the Church together; but that under the administration of Mr. Brown their finances had assumed a better shape, and that the present Rector was instrumental in increasing the influence and prosperity of the Church. He then referred to the growth of Emmanuel Church, so long fostered and sustained by Trinity, and to the significant fact, that at the very time that the Chapel was regularly opened for services, the Rector of Emmanuel Church, Rev. D. R. Brewer, wrote to the Vestry of Trinity Church, thanking them for past aid, and declining to receive further assistance; stating his firm belief that the Church was now quite able to go alone: which letter is recorded in the Church records.

Dr. Mercer called upon Rev. Mr. Wingate, of Emmanuel, to know if he had not recently stated before witnesses, that his

Church had never been more prosperous than during last season, although the Chapel was then regularly opened: which question Mr. Wingate declined to answer.

It being apparent that no further light could be thrown on the question, the prolonged debate was brought to a close by the Bishop, who stated that he was prepared to give his decision, and said, in substance, that he was utterly and heartily opposed to the existing Canon, restricting the spreading of churches by arbitrary laws; that he had but one course open to him—to follow the strict letter of the law, under which Mr. Brown's protest held good: he therefore declared that the Chapel could not be opened, so long as it remained in the Ward of Zion and Trinity Church, without the approval of the Rectors of those parishes.

The Bishop was asked what would be the bearing of the Canon on a new parish Church in an unoccupied Ward: who replied, that as he understood the Canon, there was no reason why a parish might not be so established, and added, but that question he did not now wish to consider.

The Bishop then addressed Rev. Mr. Brown, not as Bishop of the Diocese, but as a friend and brother, urging him to withdraw his protest, and pointed him to the evil growing out of the estrangement and this state of things, and the moral effect on the public mind by the closing of the Chapel.

[The above account of the meeting at the Aquidneck House is wholly from the writer's own notes, taken at the meeting, and not from the Church records.]

The same evening, April 27, 1860, there was a meeting of the Vestry of the Trinity Church; Charles Hunter, Junior Warden, and Edward King, James Birkhead, Henry Bull, William E. Dennis, R. R. Hazard, Jr., and John D. Ogden being present.

Voted: that the following communication should be forwarded to the Bishop of the Diocese:

To the Rt. Rev. Thomas M. Clark, Bishop of Rhode Island,
Rt. Rev. and Dear Sir:

Understanding that at the conference of this morning it was asserted that the Warden, Vestrymen and Corporation of Trinity Church, would not oppose the opening of the Rev. Dr. Mercer's Chapel, we beg to inform you, that at a regular meeting of the Corporation of Trinity Church, held on the 19th day of April, 1860, a protest was read, received and recorded, of which the following is a section: "Section 6. Because the institution of a new Church will diminish the strength and impair the prosperity of the three existing churches, which now furnish Episcopal accommodation amply sufficient for this community": we also desire to state, that we, the Vestry, fully approve of the foregoing section of the said protest, and firmly believe that a majority of the Corporation of Trinity Church entertain the same opinion.

In case the question of opening any chapel, or church, in this city, beyond the three existing churches, shall be entertained by you, we respectfully request that due notice may be given us, that we may appear before you by counsel, or by written argument.

In behalf of the Vestry of Trinity Church,

CHAS. HUNTER, Chairman.

J. D. OGDEN, Secretary.

At this time the friends of the Chapel made a flank movement, that for the time being disconcerted their opponents.

At the regular monthly meeting of the City Council, May 1st, the following petition was granted:

To His Honor the Mayor, the Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Newport:

The undersigned respectfully petition your honorable body to change the present line of the Fourth Ward, so that it

will include in the limits of said Fourth Ward, the lot of land on which "All Saints' Chapel" now stands, on the south-east corner of Beach and Cottage streets. The necessity for this alteration arises from the fact that said Chapel cannot be used for Episcopal worship in the Third Ward, under the Canons of the Episcopal Church. A question has recently been raised relative to this matter, and the Bishop of the Diocese, as in duty bound, has decided, in conformity to the Canons, that the said Chapel cannot be opened for religious worship so long as it remains in the Third Ward; at the same time expressing himself very strongly in favor of the freedom of the people in choosing their place of worship, and regretting that the Canon of the Church compelled him to make the aforesaid decision. By granting the request of your petitioners, you will not, either now or hereafter, change the place of voting of any elector, and will confer a great benefit on those who desire to worship in the Chapel, inasmuch as this building cannot be opened as a Chapel for religious worship where it now stands, and cannot be removed without great expense and trouble, if, indeed, it can be removed at all. As it is a Divine command that the Gospel shall be freely preached all over the world, and as it has always been a principle with the people of Rhode Island, to grant full toleration and perfect freedom in all religious matters, they pray your Honors to grant their petition.

BENJ. FINCH,
GEO. C. MASON,
CHARLES COTTON,
JOHN H. COZZENS,
WM. G. SEABURY,
J. PRESCOTT HALL,
JOB T. LANGLEY,
SAMUEL ENGS.

Newport, May 1st, 1860.

A meeting of the Vestry of Trinity Church was called at once, and met on the evening of May 3d, when it was

Resolved: that the Senior Warden be requested to wait on

the Bishop of the Diocese, and apprise him of the change of the boundaries of the Third Ward, under a recent act of the authorities of this city; also that he submit to the Bishop a copy of the petition praying for such change; also to lay before him that part of the City Charter which relates to the division of wards.

It was also ordered that a committee of three be appointed to make arrangements for supplying the pulpit until a Rector shall be chosen, and that the two Wardens [Marshall C. Slocum and Charles Hunter] and the Secretary [John D. Ogden] constitute that committee.

Immediately after the change in the ward boundaries, the following petition was sent to the Bishop and Standing Committee:

To the Rt. Rev. the Bishop, and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of R. I.

Rt. Rev. Sir, Rev. Sirs, and Gentlemen:

We the undersigned, members and communicants of the Episcopal Church, respectfully make known to you our desire to form a new Parish within the City of Newport.

The grounds of this desire and intention are these—First: We have been driven to leave Trinity Church by a series of unparalleled outrages, such as no Christian men can submit to, both for their own sakes, and for the sake of the Christian religion.

Second: There is here a church edifice known as All Saints Chapel, which has been used during the past ten years as an occasional church. Into this building we desire to go *as a Parish Church*, and find that peace and growth in Christianity which we solemnly asseverate we cannot find elsewhere.

We therefore respectfully petition that you take our prayer favorably and speedily into consideration—humbly representing that for the three past Sundays we have been without a place of worship; and that any delay in entering our church is most distressing and injurious to ourselves and families.

In accordance with Art. VII we herewith formed the organization of our Parish, and remain, respectfully

Your obedient humble servants.

[The writer cannot give correctly the names of the signers.]

At a meeting of the Vestry of Trinity Church, May 16, 1860, the following communication was received from the Bishop, and was ordered to be placed on file:

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport;
Gentlemen:

I enclose a resolution passed today by the Bishop and Standing Committee of the Diocese of Rhode Island, acting in council. May I most earnestly and affectionately beg that you will accede to the request that it contains. It seems to me the only available mode of averting serious and permanent evils in the future. I presume you would not desire the formation of a fourth Episcopal Church in Newport at the present time. I presume also that you would not wish to see a respectable number of your fellow Churchmen, debarred by authority from the privilege of worshipping God in their own communion, when they please, and under such ministration as they may choose: especially, when it is possible that under a temporary excitement they may be led to cut themselves off entirely from connection with the Church.

I regret that I have no time today to enlarge upon the subject, but I must write a number of letters before the mail closes, and therefore leave the whole matter here, in great confidence in your wisdom and discretion.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS M. CLARK.

Providence, R. I., May 12, 1860.

The following was the decision of the Standing Committee:

At a meeting of the Bishop and Standing Committee of the

Diocese of Rhode Island, held May 12th, 1860, it was resolved unanimously:

That the gentlemen petitioning for the organization of a new Parish in the City of Newport, are respectfully desired to withdraw their request for the present, in order to allow the Rector of Zion Church, and the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, who have petitioned against the opening of the Chapel, known as "All Saints Chapel," also to withdraw their protests for the present, which they are earnestly and affectionately requested to do.

Attest,

EDWARD WALCOTT, Secretary.

Whereupon the following answer (drafted at the request of the Vestry, by Messrs. D. King and H. Bull) was directed to be signed by the Secretary and sent to the Bishop:

Newport, R. I., May 16th, 1860.

Rt. Rev. and Dear Sir:

The Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church have received your letter of the 12th inst., enclosing the Resolution of the Standing Committee, requesting the Vestry to withdraw their protest to the opening of the Chapel, or to the formation of a new parish.

It would give them pleasure to be able to comply with the request of the Bishop and Standing Committee; but on the present occasion they feel compelled by a sense of duty to continue their protest.

They beg leave to assure the Bishop and Standing Committee that their protest was made after due deliberation, and a just consideration of all the circumstances affecting the prosperity of the Episcopal churches in Newport.

Very truly and sincerely yours,

HENRY BULL, Sec'y pro tem. of the

Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport.

Rt. Rev. Thomas M. Clark, D. D.,

Bishop of the Diocese of Rhode Island.

[As is often the case, the decision of the Standing Committee was met by a spirit of opposition by all the parties engaged in the contest. The Chapelites—for so they were now called—had organized as “Christ Church,” as shown in the decision of that body on the receipt of the Bishop’s letter (of the tenor of the one to Trinity Church Vestry) and the Resolution of the Standing Committee.

“At a meeting of ‘Christ Church,’ held at the house of Samuel Engs, Monday evening, May 14, 1860, the letter of Bishop Clark, and the Resolution of the Standing Committee were submitted by Benjamin Finch, for consideration. Whereupon it was voted that we approve of the spirit of the resolution, but must say that it does not meet our wants, and we believe will not do away with the necessity of a new parish, under existing circumstances. In deference to the wishes of the Bishop and Standing Committee, we will for the present acquiesce to have our petition deferred until Thursday next, to give, in the mean time, to the protestants an opportunity to withdraw their unqualified opposition to the holding of Episcopal services in ‘All Saints Chapel.’ At the expiration of the afore-said time, if said opposition has not been withdrawn, then our application to remain in full force.”

Failing in their efforts to meet the difficulty, the Bishop and Standing Committee devised a new plan, as set forth in a “Circular” that was at once issued.]

CIRCULAR.

At a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Rhode Island, convened at the request of the Bishop, on the 17th of May, 1860, to act upon the application for the organization of a new Parish in the city of Newport, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The establishment of a fourth Episcopal Parish in

the city of Newport does not seem to be demanded by the necessities of the case, as there is already ample accommodation for all who are disposed to attend upon the services of our Church in that place, and in the opinion of the Bishop and Standing Committee, the success of another Parish can be attained only by the serious and permanent injury of the three churches now existing, it is

Resolved, That with great respect for the gentlemen who have petitioned for the canonical consent of the Ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese to the formation of a new Parish, the Bishop and Standing Committee feel constrained to withhold their consent, and the petitioners accordingly have leave to withdraw their request.

On motion, the following Address to the Churchmen of Newport was unanimously adopted:

The Bishop and Standing Committee cannot announce the conclusion to which they have been compelled to come in regard to the Petition for a new Parochial organization in Newport, without expressing their deep regret that their efforts to produce conciliation between the contending parties in our churches, have failed to meet with a favorable response. It is their only desire to secure, if possible, the peace and prosperity of the Church, and they now beg leave to submit to the Churchmen of Newport the following propositions:

1st. That an effort be made to purchase the building known as "All Saints Chapel," under the condition that the title of the same shall be vested in the Convention of the Diocese.

2d. The right to determine when and under what regulations, this Chapel shall be opened for Divine Service, to rest with the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Rectors and Wardens of the three Episcopal Churches in Newport.

3d. The transfer of the Chapel if purchased under the above mentioned conditions, to be made on the first of October, 1860, and meanwhile all hindrances to its being opened and occupied by the Reverend Dr. Mercer, for Divine Service, shall be withdrawn.

By this plan the Reverend Gentleman will be reimbursed for the outlay and expenditure incurred, and this relief we consider

justly and equitably due to him. It frees the Chapel of the objectionable feature that it is held as private property, liable to be occupied by its owner to the pecuniary injury of the Parishes already established in Newport, and at the same time, it may be made to provide for a real necessity during a portion of the year. Under this arrangement, it may recur to its original position as a Free Chapel, or the resources accruing from it may be applied to the benefit of the existing Parishes, or be otherwise disposed of, as may be deemed expedient. Finally, this plan, if adopted, would indicate a spirit of conciliation towards the Reverend Dr. Mercer and his friends, on the part of those who have thus far stood in opposition to their wishes and their claims.

A true copy from the record.

Attest,

EDWARD WALCOTT, Sec.

[Zion Church was still to be heard from. At a meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of that Church, held May 21st, 1860:

“A printed Circular, received from the Bishop and Standing Committee of the Diocese, communicating their decision in relation to the application by the friends of Rev. Dr. Mercer, to open another place for Episcopal worship in Newport, was read.

“The decision above alluded to is against the petitioners upon the precise ground set forth in the protest of the 7th of April, and the Bishop and Standing Committee therefore conclude by saying that ‘they feel constrained to withdraw their consent to organize a new parish, and accordingly grant leave to the petitioners to withdraw their request.’

“This Circular contains also an informal recommendation from the Bishop and Standing Committee to the ‘Churchmen of Newport’ [to] embrace their propositions:

“1. That an effort be made to purchase ‘All Saints Chapel,’ the title to be vested in the Convention.

“2. The right to open said Chapel, &c., to rest with the

Bishop, and the Rectors and Wardens of the three Episcopal Churches in Newport.

“3. The transfer to be made on the 1st of October, and all hindrance to its being opened and occupied by the Rev. Dr. Mercer, for Divine Service, to be in the meantime withdrawn.

“The Vestry took no action upon the above proposition submitted to the ‘Churchmen of Newport.’”]

June 19, 1860. The Senior Warden laid before the Vestry a Resolution of the Bishop and Standing Committee, which was read and ordered to be entered upon the minutes:

At a meeting of the Standing Committee, convened at the request of the Bishop, June 15, 1860, the following preamble and resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Bishop and Standing Committee having heard the statements of parties interested in the opening of All Saints Chapel, Newport, and also of those opposed to the same, and an application having been made to them, so to define parish boundaries in the city of Newport, as to remove the Chapel beyond the jurisdiction of the three existing parishes, it is hereby *Resolved* unanimously, that while they are not prepared to say, that such relief as the Chapel affords during a portion of the year, may not render it desirable that the building should be opened for religious purposes at that season, and while they are very reluctant to take any such action as would seem to result in the peremptory closing of a chapel which has already been used for public service: yet so long as this Chapel is held as private property, the revenues to be applied at the sole discretion of the owner, liable to be occupied by a clergyman subject to no control, so far as the management of the Chapel is concerned, except that which necessarily grows out of his general canonical obligation to conduct the services of the Church with propriety; it not being requisite that he should even be connected with the Diocese; and so long as a majority of the Rectors or Church Wardens of the parishes in Newport continue to protest against the opening of the Chapel, the Bishop and Standing Committee

do not feel themselves called upon to define parochial limits, so as to remove said Chapel beyond the jurisdiction of the existing parishes.

A true copy from the Records.

Attest,

EDWARD WALCOTT, Sec.

On motion of Mr. Norman, it was resolved: that as frequent application for Church, or Corporation, pews are now made, the Junior Warden be requested to inquire of those persons who have vacated these pews, whether it is their intention to occupy them during the present summer; and also that all Corporation pews, the rent of which is over-due, or which the lessees decline to pay, shall, at the discretion of the Junior Warden, be rented to new tenants.

June 21, 1860. Meeting of the Corporation of Trinity Church; twenty-eight corporators being present. Dr. David King in the chair.

Minutes of last meeting read, and proxy votes were called for and examined; when it was moved and seconded: that whereas there exists a most unhappy difference of opinion, growing out of the late acts of this Corporation, which, if allowed to continue, will in a great degree tend to alienate long standing friendships of many of the corporators; such a state of feeling cannot but be deprecated by all; therefore, as a measure calculated to restore harmony it is

Resolved: that the Vestry be, and is hereby, respectfully requested to withdraw their protest against "All Saints Chapel"; which was laid on the table by a vote of 50 to 28.

The following motion was then made:

Resolved: that this Corporation approves of the protest against the opening of All Saints Chapel, made by the Vestry to the Bishop and Standing Committee, on the ground that the

protest was a simple declaration of fact, and a lawful means of maintaining the interests and the rights of the existing parishes in Newport.

Resolved: that we believe that the Vestry in the matter of the Protest, were governed solely by views of prudence and regard to the interests of the Episcopal Churches in Newport; and were influenced by no motives which could wound the feelings of any member of the Church.

Carried, by the same vote as above.

August 18, 1860. Meeting of the Vestry.

Ordered: that two hundred dollars be paid to Bishop Clark, for his services during the month of August.

Ordered: that the Treasurer be authorized to pay to the clergymen temporarily officiating in Trinity Church, such sums as the committee for supplying the pulpit shall direct, not exceeding twenty dollars per Sunday.

September 6, 1860. Voted: that the Wardens and Treasurer be authorized to sell all, or such portions of the Corporation pews, as they may think expedient, and on such terms as may be by them considered equitable; and also, that the proceeds of such sales be added to the permanent funds of the Church, and invested in bank stock.

September 13, 1860. Corporation meeting; twenty-one corporators being present. Reading of the minutes dispensed with.

Moved by Mr. S. Abbott Lawrence, and seconded by Mr. Charles Hunter, that a committee be now appointed to suggest a name or names of clergymen who may be candidates for our vacant Rectorship; with directions to call a meeting of the Corporation, when said committee shall be prepared to report.

Objections having been made to this proposition, it was withdrawn by the mover, and the meeting adjourned.

March 13, 1861. At a meeting of the Vestry, held at the

house of Mr. Edward King; present, Messrs. Slocum, Birkhead, Gibbs, Lawrence, Dr. King, Bull and Edward King.

Messrs. Slocum and Edward King were appointed a committee, to meet Bishop Clark and the Vestry of Zion Church, at the meeting tomorrow, to consult on the propriety of removing the protest against the opening of "All Saints Chapel," and expressing a willingness on the part of this Vestry to withdraw their protest, should Zion Church consent to do so.

[The following minutes of that meeting are taken from the records of Zion Church.

"March 14, 1861. Special meeting of the Vestry, called at the request of the Bishop of the Diocese.

"The Bishop and two of the Vestry of Trinity Church—Marshall C. Slocum and Edward King, were present; the last two as a committee from Trinity Church.

"The Bishop stated that he had requested this meeting to be called for the purpose of laying before it his own, and the views of the Standing Committee, in relation to continuing or removing the protest against "All Saints Chapel." He said that it had been continued for nearly one year, that in its practical operation it was a nullity in every sense of the word—that it caused much ill feeling to exist among the members of the several parishes in Newport, and that if continued was likely to destroy the peace and harmony of the Church for the next generation. Having proved of no canonical force, he was of the opinion, in unison with the Standing Committee, that it was best for the general welfare of the Church, to remove it. He therefore most earnestly and prayerfully appealed to the Vestry of Zion Church, to take immediate action upon the subject, and that if they could not remove the obnoxious protest (as he deeply regretted to perceive there was some objection to so doing) he hoped the Vestry would consent that the Rector, Rev. Mr. Brown,

should try the experiment of withdrawing it temporarily, for the purpose of ascertaining whether it would not result in the speedy abandonment of the Chapel. He believed that if such a course was adopted it would have that effect.

"The Standing Committee, continued the Bishop, were of the opinion that the credit and reputation of the Episcopal Church, both at home and abroad, were involved in this proceeding, and that one of three ways ought to be adopted (if the protest was not withdrawn) to settle the trouble.

"One way was, to prohibit any layman from officiating in the Chapel. [The Rector here remarked that this should have been done in the first place.]

"The next was to allow the congregation at the Chapel to organize.

"And the third way was, to permit the protests of the several parishes, which being in no force, to remain by tacit consent, as they are, under an organization.

"For himself, said the Bishop, he preferred that the protests should be wholly removed. The Standing Committee had intimated a disposition, if this could be done, to have the Chapel organized, rather than have it continued to be opened in an illegitimate way. They believed, he said, that the adoption of such a course would soon put an end to the difficulty, and that the Chapel would, were it done, eventually die out, &c., &c.

"The Committee from Trinity Church stated it had been informally decided by their Vestry, to acquiesce in the views expressed by the Bishop, and take off their protest, previous to which, however, they were desirous that Zion Church should remove theirs: and as Trinity Vestry would meet that afternoon, at 2 o'clock, they should be glad to communicate to them the intelligence that Zion had set the example, &c.

"Rev. Mr. Brown, in reply to some remarks by the Bishop, said he was entirely willing to do in this matter just what his

Vestry thought best. He had been censured a great deal for what he had done, as well as for what he had not done, in the matter. Though he could say that the whole thing originated in the Vestry, it made no difference to him at all, what was said, one way or the other. He was perfectly independent of Newport, having received that very day a call from abroad, offering him a much better salary than he was then receiving from Zion Church, &c.

“Several members of the Vestry expressed their views on the subject. They considered that the same reasons existed now for the continuance of the protests that existed at the time they were put on; and they therefore hoped the subject, so far as Zion Church was concerned, would be postponed for further and more deliberate action.

“Several other members, believing it would be safe to accede to the wishes of the Bishop, and the recommendation of the Standing Committee, were in favor of at once removing the protests; but the desire for a postponement appearing to prevail, the following resolution offered by Mr. Geo. Cozzens, was therefore adopted:

“Resolved unanimously, that in view of a diversity of sentiment in regard to the Bishop’s proposition, to take off the protests against All Saints Chapel, this Vestry adjourn to Monday evening, the 25th inst., at half past seven o’clock, for the further consideration of the subject; deeming it advisable that a measure of so much importance, should be decided with due consideration and unanimity; and that Messrs. Geo. Cozzens and the Junior Warden, be a committee to inform the committee of Trinity Church Vestry, of this vote.

“At the adjourned meeting, March 25, 1861, after considerable discussion, the subject of the protests was laid on the table.”]

March 14, 1861. The committee appointed at the last meet-

ing, reported to Trinity Vestry, that in the presence of the Bishop, they had met the Vestry of Zion Church; that no action had been taken by that body on the subject of the removal of the protests against "All Saints Chapel," but that the whole matter had been deferred to a meeting to be held on the 25th inst.

March 16, 1861. At a meeting of the Vestry, the following resolution was offered:

"Whereas, the Bishop and Standing Committee of the Diocese have shown by their acts during the past year, namely by their preamble to the Circular of May 17th, 1860 (note 1), and by their decision at the meeting of June 15th, 1860 (note 2), that they have the power and the will to protect the rights and the interests of the churches of Newport, without any further action on our part. Therefore Resolved: as an act of peace and conciliation, and to prevent any future misapprehension, alienation, and unkind feelings among us, that the protest of this Vestry against the opening of 'All Saints Chapel,' dated April 27th, 1860, be hereby withdrawn.

Note 1. "The establishment of a fourth Episcopal parish in the city of Newport does not seem to be demanded by the necessities of the case, as there is already ample accommodation for all those who are disposed to attend upon the services of our Church in that place; and in the opinion of the Bishop and Standing Committee, the success of another parish can be obtained only by the serious and permanent injury of the three churches now existing."

Note 2. "So long as this Chapel is held as private property, the revenues to be applied at the sole discretion of the owner, liable to be occupied by a clergyman subject to no control, so far as the management of the Chapel is concerned, except that which necessarily grows out of his general canonical obligation to conduct the services of the Church with propriety, it not

being even requisite that he should be connected with the Diocese. . . . The Bishop and Standing Committee do not feel themselves called upon to define parochial limits, so as to remove said Chapel beyond the jurisdiction of the existing parishes."

This resolution was adopted; James Birkhead and Henry Bull voting in the negative.

March 21, 1861. Meeting of the Corporation; present David King, Benjamin Finch, Charles Hunter, John H. Cozzens, James Birkhead, Job T. Langley, Benjamin Melville, William H. Bliss, John J. Bliss, James Finch, Samuel Engs, M. C. Slocum, Edward King, S. A. Lawrence, William C. Gibbs, Henry Bull, Jethro C. Carr, John N. Potter and John D. Ogden. Dr. David King in the chair.

The following resolution, moved by Charles Hunter and seconded by William C. Gibbs, was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved: that it is all important to the interest of Religion, and the good of the Parish, that harmony should be restored to Trinity Church; it being the judgment of this meeting that in no other way can so desirable an end be attained than by the Bishop of the Diocese, himself, becoming Rector of Trinity Church: *therefore*,

"Resolved unanimously by this Corporation, that the Right Rev. Bishop Clark be elected Rector of Trinity Church, and that he be urged to accept the call, as indispensable to the peace and harmony of the churches of this city. Furthermore resolved, that a committee of five be appointed to wait upon the Rt. Rev. Bishop, with a copy of these resolutions, and to request his prompt reply thereto."

The committee, to whom the matter of salary was also referred, were Charles Hunter, Samuel Engs, Andrew Robeson, Edward King and Benjamin Finch.

Mr. Henry Bull, Treasurer, laid before the Corporation the following letter from the Rev. Dr. Mercer, received by him

some time ago, but which, owing to circumstances, had not been presented to the Corporation:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: I have received and respectfully acknowledge the resolution of the Corporation, ordering the payment of my salary to the end of the year, i. e. five or six weeks after my resignation took effect. I accept this payment, since I regard it as my legal due. Under the circumstances, however, I decline to receive anything for my own use, after the last day of my actual services, and appropriate the sum, say \$215, to the permanent fund for the poor of Trinity Parish; and accordingly desire you to deposit it as a part of that fund. My check for \$215 is enclosed.

Yours respectfully,

A. G. MERCER.

This letter was ordered to be placed on record and the money enclosed to be funded for the poor of Trinity Church, in compliance with the request contained in the letter.

CHAPTER VIII.

1861-1863.

April 1, 1861. Annual Meeting of the Corporation of Trinity Church. Present, twenty-one corporators.

The following letter from Bishop Clark was received, read and ordered to be recorded:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church, Newport;
Gentlemen:

I have received your unanimous and cordial invitation to the Rectorship of Trinity Church. I thank you most heartily for the manifestation of your confidence, and if I could leave my present position without danger of serious injury to the parish under my charge, I would gladly accede to your request. But I find the appeals which are made against my sundering at present the parochial relations that I sustain, too powerful to be resisted, and I must therefore respectfully decline this invitation.

I cannot but hope that the same spirit of fraternal unanimity with which you have acted in my case, may soon enable you to select and unite upon some person, under whose ministry, the peace, prosperity and best spiritual welfare of our Communion may be permanently secured.

Very respectfully yours,

THOMAS M. CLARK.

Providence, R. I., March 30th, 1861.

Moved by Charles Hunter: that the Rev. Oliver H. Prescott be called as Minister for one year.

The vote was taken by ballot. Including proxy votes: ayes 41, noes 28.

The Wardens were appointed a committee to inform Rev. Mr. Prescott of his election; and his salary was fixed at \$1500 per annum.

August 9, 1861. Meeting of the Vestry. Present, Messrs. Slocum (Senior Warden), Gibbs, Bull, Birkhead, Lawrence, Dennis and Ogden.

The following letter from Rev. Mr. Prescott was read and ordered to be placed on file:

Newport, August 5th, 1861.

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport:

I hereby accept the invitation to the Rectorship of Trinity Church, extended to me on Easter Monday last; reserving to myself the right of resignation thereof whenever it may seem to me expedient. With many thanks for the honor you have conferred on me, I am very faithfully,

Your servant and Rector,

O. H. PRESCOTT.

The Pastoral Letter of the Right Reverend Bishop Clark, read to the congregation of Trinity Church on the 21st of July, and addressed to the members of the Episcopal Church at Newport, was then laid before the Vestry.

It was unanimously resolved that the same be placed on file, together with the answer hereby adopted; that the said answer be transmitted to the Bishop, and that 150 copies of the letter and answer be printed for circulation.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF RHODE ISLAND.

To the Members of the Episcopal Church in Newport;

Brethren: The condition of affairs is such in the Churches of our Communion in Newport, that I feel called upon to ad-

dress to you a pastoral letter, which I trust will be received in the spirit of Christian kindness. It is not necessary that I should enter upon the merits of the circumstances, which originally excited the unhappy controversy that has for some time disturbed the harmony of the churches in your city, and brought discredit upon the reputation of our Communion.

When an appeal was made to the Ecclesiastical Authorities of the Diocese, to be relieved from the Protest prohibiting the use of the building known as "All Saints Chapel" for the purpose of public worship, although we seriously questioned the expediency of this prohibition, we were not disposed to interfere, trusting that the parties in controversy would be inclined to settle their difficulty without positive action on our part. When further application was made by those desiring to worship in the Chapel, for permission to organize a new Parish, the request was also declined, on the ground that there was no call for the establishment of such a Parish; the existing accommodations being sufficient to meet the requirements of our Church in Newport. It was still hoped that the good sense and Christian feeling of our brethren might be relied upon to induce harmony and peace; but, after the lapse of several months, finding that there were a number of persons who still claimed the privilege of worshipping in the Chapel, and they having once more petitioned for liberty to establish a fourth Parish, although we were yet of the opinion that such a new organization is not called for by any numerical increase of Church people in Newport, or any probable accession to our numbers, we still felt ourselves constrained to accede to their request, and accordingly we authorized the formation of another Parish. To have persisted any longer in denying this privilege, would have subjected us to just reproach throughout the Church and throughout the land. In this age it is likely to be claimed as an inherent right on the part of any respectable body of Christian people, that they shall be allowed to worship God under such ministration as they prefer, and to organize for this purpose at their discretion. The Church has indeed interposed certain canonical restrictions upon this liberty, the adjustment of which devolves upon the Bishop and Standing Committee of the Diocese. It is wisely

ordered that there shall be a body of men competent to act with full authority in matters of ecclesiastical dispute, who are relieved from the influence of all prejudices and excitements; and when they have acted, it becomes all loyal Churchmen to submit to their decision without cavil or opposition.

In the case before us we have exhausted every possible device to settle the controversy by counsel and fraternal appeal, and, failing in all these efforts, we have reluctantly consented to the organization of a new Church, as the only way to secure permanent peace, and to provide for the opening of the Chapel during the summer months, which we have always considered to be very desirable.

And now I appeal to you all, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and as your chief Pastor, to cease from further contention, and to exercise that charity towards each other which should distinguish the followers of our Saviour and members of the same Holy Communion. If any of you feel that you have been wronged, be willing to bear the wrong patiently. Allow the influence of the wise and prudent to prevail in your councils and to mould the public sentiment. Give no heed to brawlers. Let not the Church fall behind the world in courtesy and charity. Ask yourselves if any possible good can come from the perpetuation of hostile and angry feeling. Do not suppose that the whole blame in this wretched controversy lies with either side. "In many things we offend all." There is none so immaculate but the tongue of slander may find in him some reasonable cause of offence. But we are more profitably employed in detecting and curing our own faults, than in scanning and magnifying those of others. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. The end of the commandment is charity."

In all that we have done, through every stage of this sad trouble, we have aimed simply to promote the best welfare of the Church, and if possible, to rescue our beloved Communion from contumely and disgrace. No one who is competent to exercise a calm judgment, can doubt that we have sought only to promote order, tranquility and Christian love.

At my consecration, I was asked: "Will you maintain and

set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, love, and peace among all men; and diligently exercise such discipline, as by the authority of God's Word, and by the order of this Church, is committed to you?" To which I answered: "I will do so, by the help of God." If in the endeavor to keep this solemn promise, I shall ever incur reproach, I accept it as one of the conditions of faithfulness: praying that God may give me strength and power to perform every duty which devolves upon me, without fear or hesitation.

And now may grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, be ever with you, in truth and in love.

I am very affectionately,
Your friend and Bishop,
THOMAS M. CLARK.

Providence, July 20th, 1861.

To the Rt. Rev. Thomas M. Clark, D. D., Bishop of Rhode Island;
Rt. Rev. Sir:

Your Pastoral Letter addressed to the members of the Episcopal Church of Newport, was read to our people on the morning of the eighth Sunday after Trinity. Printed copies were also circulated among us, and the whole matter of the Chapel was again unhappily brought before the public.

As Trinity was the only Church in which your Letter was read, we feel it *our* special duty to address you this our frank and respectful answer.

On the 17th of May, 1860, the Bishop and Standing Committee, after due deliberation, unanimously refused to admit All Saints Chapel as a fourth Parish, "as there was already ample accommodation for all who are disposed to attend upon the services of our Church at Newport, and the success of a new Parish could only be attained by the serious and permanent injury of the three churches now existing."

On the 11th of June, 1861, no notice having been given to the three churches interested, the Bishop and Standing Committee "advised and consented to the formation of a new parish under the name of 'All Saints Parish.'" We are at a loss to

conceive of this sudden change of policy. "The serious and permanent injury to the three existing churches" remains exactly as in the previous year, and "the Church accommodation" is now *more* than "ample" in consequence of the reduced number of visitors at Newport. The mere pertinacity of the applicants does not constitute a sufficient reason for reversing a righteous judgment, nor in the opinion of this Vestry, has the conduct of the petitioners been such as to entitle them to the sympathy or indulgence of the Church. To evade a certain Canon, they appealed to the civil authority, the Board of Aldermen, and effected a change in the boundaries of a ward in this city; when the Bishop of the Diocese appointed and published a day for his official visitation at Trinity to administer the Rite of Confirmation, these Petitioners in a body seceded from their Parish Church, and with a layman on that day held service at All Saints Chapel. Subsequently, when the Bishop and Standing Committee forbade the opening of the Chapel, either as a fourth Parish or as private property, this same layman was engaged for the Season, on a salary, and for the greater part of the year did actually conduct all the services of the Church, the administration of the Holy Sacraments alone excepted. As you, Rt. Rev. Sir, are not ignorant of these transactions, this Vestry will not volunteer to defend the honor of the Church, or to define the sins of Schism and Rebellion.

On the 15th of June, 1860, the Bishop and Standing Committee again unanimously refused to grant the prayer of the Petitioners, ruling among other matters, that the Chapel could not be opened "so long as it is held as private property, the revenue to be applied at the sole discretion of the owner, liable to be occupied by a clergyman subject to no control so far as the management of the Chapel is concerned, except that which necessarily grows out of his general canonical obligations to conduct the services of the Church with propriety, it not being requisite that he should even be connected with the Diocese." The wisdom of this decision has already been proved, for we hear with unfeigned sorrow that at the opening of the Chapel this Season, a clergyman, "not connected with the Diocese," "subject to no control, as far as the management of the Chapel

is concerned," has publicly denounced the Canons of the Church, thereby wounding the feelings of many loyal Episcopalians, both of this and other Dioceses. Whether All Saints Chapel remains "held as private property," or whether it has been legally transferred, a minister or spiritual head elected and the Parish duly organized according to the requirements of the Canon, we do not presume to inquire, confidently relying upon the justice and integrity, the vigor and firmness of the Ecclesiastical Authorities. But if this Parish *should* be duly organized, we respectfully ask you, our Bishop, what is the canonical position of these seceders, or rather, what is their relation to the Parish of Trinity. Members and Communicants in the Corporation, recorded and reported to you as such, retaining their pews, enjoying all the rights and privileges of Membership, they, from frivolous causes, leave their own place of worship and become members, wardens or vestrymen of another Parish. Now, this anomalous state of things, and all this wretched controversy, would have been avoided had the little Chapel of All Saints been allowed to remain unaltered; or, if *when* removed, it had "recurred to its original position as a Free Chapel," according to the recommendation of the Bishop and Standing Committee in their circular of May 17th, 1860: for divested of all sophistry and special pleading the Fact is undeniable that All Saints Chapel, erected principally, if not entirely, by members of Trinity Church, was for nine years a Free Chapel, open to strangers during the summer, with daily service, prosperous, successful, and in entire conformity with the wishes and intentions of the contributors.

In conclusion, Rt. Rev. Sir, we beg to assure you that when your unexpected letter was read to our congregation, "All Saints Chapel" had been peaceably opened for four or five Sundays. Although disappointed at finding the little community of Newport again exposed to this irritating subject, we made no objection, but quietly "ceased from further contention." The old Parish of Trinity, prosperous in its temporal and spiritual affairs, cannot be affected by the establishment of any new church, but as a matter of opinion we conscientiously believe that the success of a new parish "can only be attained by the serious and permanent injury" of Zion and Emmanuel Churches. *You* have

ruled otherwise, and as "loyal Churchmen we have submitted to your decision without cavil or opposition." We therefore consider your Pastoral Letter as uncalled for, and its reprimands and admonitions not deserved by the congregation. In the present unhappy state of our country, we seek comfort and consolation in the religious services of our Church and, at least, we hope to find peace and tranquillity within the bounds of our Sanctuary.

In behalf of the Vestry of Trinity Church,
MARSHALL C. SLOCUM, Senior Warden.

J. D. OGDEN, Secretary.
Newport, R. I., August 9th, 1861.

August 21, 1861. At a Vestry meeting the following letter from the Bishop of the Diocese, was read and ordered to be placed on file:

To the Wardens and Vestrymen of Trinity Church, Newport;
Gentlemen:

Your communication of the 9th inst. is just received.

In reply allow me to say, that if the Pastoral Letter, which I recently addressed to the members of the Episcopal Church in Newport, was read in Trinity Church and not in the other churches, it was by no direction of mine; I simply requested that the sheets which I forwarded should be distributed among the people.

It is well known that I have uniformly declared myself as opposed to the protests against the opening of All Saints Chapel, and have exerted my influence to secure their repeal. This was not because I approved of the mode in which it was proposed to institute services there; for in my private communications to the Rev. Dr. Mercer, I implored him to abandon his plan, relinquish control of the building, and thus remove the main cause of contention. The course which I felt constrained to pursue with him has resulted in a rupture of the closest friendship and most intimate relations. I have been charged in certain letters recently addressed to me, with collusion with him, in his original project for removing and enlarging the Chapel, and with a wil-

lingness to receive pecuniary compensation, for allowing him to carry out his plans. In reply, I can only say that he never consulted me, and I never advised him at all on the subject. All that I ever had to do with the Chapel, was to preach there for a few Sundays, alternately with the Rector of Trinity Church, taking his place in his own Chapel on the intermediate Sundays; and this I did at his earnest solicitation and statement, that it would be entirely agreeable to the Congregation of Trinity, and would, further, tend to produce peace and harmony.

The grounds upon which the ecclesiastical authority acted, in recognizing the formation of a new parish in Newport, are briefly given in my Pastoral Letter. We regarded the question before us as a mere choice of evils, and I venture to say that every clergyman in the Diocese, not personally involved in the controversy, under the existing circumstances, would acquiesce in our decision. As it regards my own consent to the action of the Standing Committee, it was based, not only upon what seemed to be right and expedient but upon the impression conveyed to me, that it was the opinion of the most judicious persons in Trinity Church, that the establishment of a fourth parish in Newport is the only effectual way to close the present unhappy controversy.

I am, therefore, amazed at the reception given to the recent action of the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese; and I am more astonished that the kind and affectionate letter which I have addressed to the Churchmen of Newport, should have been construed into a cause of offence, and declared to be the occasion of reviving a controversy which was beginning to die out.

That the state of feeling at Newport was such as to demand my official interference, I know from evidence which would be most mortifying and degrading to the Church, if it were given to the public. The only objection made to my letter in the Standing Committee, was, that it was milder than the occasion demanded.

That letter was not addressed to the churches in their corporate capacity; it censured no action of the Vestry of Trinity Church, but it was a simple word of counsel and godly admonition to the individual members of our Church in every quarter,

who have been and still are, indulging unchristian feeling, and uttering unchristian sentiments in relation to each other.

If a Bishop in the Church, when he sees that she is exposed to reproach and contempt, may not, in imitation of apostolic precedent, give expression to these paternal counsels which befit the emergency, it would seem as though the Episcopal office were, in a great degree, superfluous.

This controversy has given me more trouble, anxiety and pain than all my other experience in the ministry put together. I have done everything that I could to secure peace and restore that harmony to the Church, without which there can be no temporal or spiritual prosperity. In these efforts I have not been sustained by any party, but have incurred the reproach of all. I might in the beginning have taken ground against the opening of the Chapel in any form, and then a large number of communicants would have been driven from the pale of our Church. I might in the beginning have so defined the parochial boundaries in Newport, that the friends of the Chapel could have worshipped there, under any ministration that they preferred. I did neither: when the worshippers there invited a layman to read the service to them, which they had an undoubted right to do, although I never officially consented to this, I declined to declare myself opposed to it, hoping that after a time, those who had left their former place of worship would return and cooperate harmoniously with their brethren. On the other hand, when the protests were made against any clergyman's officiating in the Chapel, in the very act of declaring myself opposed to these protests, I declined to interfere for their removal. What right then have the Churchmen of Newport to charge me with double dealings in this matter? What right have they to charge me with the basest motives, as they have done, by speech and in letters addressed to me (of course I have no reference here to any action of yours), when I have striven in a matter where I had not the slightest personal advantage to secure, by every conceivable desire to reconcile differences, and save the Church from ruin? I feel myself deeply and seriously aggrieved in this whole matter. Neither party in this whole matter has done me justice.

One point further and I have done. In a letter received from your Rector [Rev. O. H. Prescott] he writes as follows: "It is said that when you opened the way to your being called to the Rectorship of Trinity Church, and proposed the withdrawal of the protests, it was under the assurance that you would accept the invitation, and could hinder the opening of the Chapel. Surprise is expressed that your Episcopal duties should be affected by your Pastoral connection, and that you did not do, as Bishop and Rector of Grace Church, Providence, what you were understood to be pledged to do, if you became Rector of Trinity Church, Newport." The Vestry of Trinity Church knew that I never gave "an assurance that I would accept the invitation," which they did me the honor to give; and further, that I never said that in the relation of their Rector, I could "hinder the opening of the Chapel." I did, indeed, encourage them to believe that I would accept their kind and earnest invitation, if I found it possible for me to do so; and after returning home I had fully determined to accept, although I had never signified the fact to any person outside of my own family; and I should have become your Rector if it had not been for the irresistible interference of my people and Vestry here: so that I can be charged with no want of faith in this matter. As to my hindering the opening of the Chapel as Rector of Trinity Church, it was said in your Vestry meeting, that if I could come to Newport, it was immaterial whether the Chapel was open or not: no pledge was demanded of me on the subject, and I certainly should not have given one, if it had been asked.

Had it been possible for me to have accepted the Rectorship of your Church, I have no doubt that, so far as the people of Trinity were concerned, there would have been no difficulty in adjusting the relation of the Chapel to your parish, in a manner satisfactory to all parties.

I have written much more at length than I intended, and with the kindest and most grateful feelings towards the Wardens and Vestry of a Church, to which I feel myself indebted for numerous acts of undeserved regard and attention. Painful as your communication is to my feelings, I am glad that it has furnished me with the opportunity of saying what would otherwise have

found no expression. Were you, Gentlemen, to know all that I have done in this matter, you would see that if private entreaty, earnest remonstrance and solemn appeal could have averted the controversy, and removed the original cause of offence, these troubles would never have occurred. I trust that the whole matter will rest here, and that with the explanation I have now given, mutual confidence, friendship and good will between us, may be indissolubly and forever restored.

Ever truly and affectionately your friend and Bishop,

THOMAS M. CLARK.

Providence, August 16th, 1861.

The following answer to the above was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be sent to the Bishop, and to be put on file:

To the Rt. Rev. Thomas M. Clark, Bishop of Rhode Island;
Rt. Rev. and Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 16th has been duly received. The object of our communication of the 9th of August, was to express our regret, that notwithstanding our reasonable and consistent course of action and our loyal and quiet submission to the decision of the authorities, we should nevertheless be considered worthy of receiving a Pastoral Letter of advice. We were not aware that certain insulting letters had been addressed to you, charging you with collusion and pecuniary interest in the matter of the Chapel; and although you do not hold us responsible for these letters, yet we beg voluntarily to disclaim any connection or concurrence with them. If, as has been intimated, these letters were anonymous, no language can express our mortification, that you should have been exposed to such unmanly attacks. It is unnecessary for us to say, that we have not the slightest suspicion, or the most distant idea, from what class of individuals these missives could have emanated.

While we regret that our communication has been painful to your feelings, we must acknowledge, that it has not been without its good effects. It has "furnished *you* with an opportunity of saying what would have otherwise found no expression"; and

it has enabled *us* to define our position, and to put on record our motives and cause of action.

Sympathizing with you on the trouble, anxiety and pain you have endured during this protracted controversy, we beg to assure you, that from us you shall receive no further annoyance; and we sincerely and cordially respond to your hope, "that mutual confidence, friendship and good will between us may be indissolubly and forever restored."

In behalf of the Vestry,

MARSHALL C. SLOCUM,

Senior Warden.

Newport, August 23d, 1861.

On motion of Mr. Edward King, it was resolved: that in each year there shall be made six general offertories, or collections, in our Church, to such purposes as the Rector may designate.

November 12, 1861. The Senior Warden was instructed to have the Church communion plate insured against fire, to the amount of \$400.

Voted: that Governor Gibbs and Dr. King be a committee to purchase or obtain the old Altar of Trinity Church, which is now in this city.^{39½}

The committee on music, the Rector, Dr. King and Mr.

^{39½} SOME YEARS before the above vote, when the Church was undergoing repairs and refitting, a number of ladies raised a sufficient sum to purchase a new altar, and the old one was, for the time being, placed in the belfry, where it was given to the sexton. He intended to take it home and put it to domestic use, but found that the carpenters had made a work bench of it, and had so shook it that it was no longer available for that purpose. Mr. William Gilpin saw it in its demoralized condition, bought it of the sexton, had it repaired and then took it to his office. There the above committee saw it, and could have had it for the asking, but neglected to take any further action in the premises. It is still, as the writer understands it, at the disposal of the Vestry, if a proper place can be found for it.

Lawrence, were requested to devise some scheme for improving the music.

Voted: that a catalogue of all books belonging to the Corporation, shall be made and printed, under the superintendence of a committee: the committee to be the Rector, Dr. King and the librarian of the Sunday School.

December 9, 1861. The Senior Warden reported that he had effected insurance on the Church plate to the amount of \$350.

The Committee on Music made the following report:

“The Committee respectfully report, that they are satisfied, that with proper and sufficient instruction, a choir of boys can furnish such music as is needed in our service, and that with the present organist's other engagements, it is quite impossible to give the attention and practice necessary to this end; therefore,

“Resolved: that Mr. Tourgee be notified that the Vestry wish to terminate their engagement with him as organist, on the last day of the present month.

“Resolved: that Mr. Henry S. Cutler, the director of the music in Trinity Church, New York, be and he is hereby to take the superintendence of the music in Trinity Church, Newport, with the privilege of appointing a deputy director, Mr. Cutler having the entire responsibility of the music, and that the salary given at present be continued to Mr. Cutler, in monthly payments.

“Resolved: that the organ be put in thorough repair and efficiency, under the direction of Mr. Cutler and the present committee on music, and that the sum of \$500 be appropriated for that purpose.”

The report and its recommendations were adopted.

January 11, 1862. The following communication was laid before the Vestry:

“The Music Committee respectfully report, that the organ

has been examined by Messrs. Cutler and Wilcox, who agree in the opinion that the \$500 already appropriated, will put the instrument in thorough repair, without doing much towards its permanent improvement.

"The Committee have also ascertained, that at an outlay of \$1000 the organ can be renovated and enlarged, as to be made virtually a new instrument, as good, according to its size, as can be bought in the country.

"Under these circumstances, the Committee wish to refer the matter back to the Vestry for further instructions: it being their opinion, that the best thing to be done, will be to recommend to the Corporation to appropriate \$1000, for the thorough repair and enlargement of the organ.

"The Committee further recommend that the Senior Warden be authorized to hire a piano, and place it in the School Room, for the use of the Organist, in drilling the choir."

The report was received and ordered on file, and its recommendations were adopted.

January 30, 1862. Meeting of the Corporation; 17 corporators being present.

Voted: that it is inexpedient to repair the organ at present.

Voted: to defer the election of Rector to Thursday next.

February 7, 1862. At an adjourned meeting of the Corporation, the meeting adjourned to the evening of the same day, there not being a quorum present.

At the adjourned meeting in the evening there were present: John Barker, George Hall, M. C. Slocum, William Cornell, James Birkhead, J. L. Van Rennselaer, William C. Gibbs, Job T. Langley, William Littlefield, Henry Bull, William Gardner, Charles H. Mumford, William Burns, Russell Coggeshall, William E. Dennis, G. Spingler: 16.

Marshall C. Slocum in the chair.

William C. Gibbs held seventeen proxies; Marshall C. Slo-

cum held twelve; Henry Bull held one; William Cornell, one, and James Birkhead, one.

On motion of William Gardner, Rev. O. H. Prescott was elected Rector.

April 21, 1862. Annual Meeting, Easter Monday. Present, the following corporators:

Benjamin Finch, M. C. Slocum, Samuel Engs, William C. Gibbs, George C. Mason, James Birkhead, William G. Seabury, William Cornell, J. H. Cozzens, William Gardner, J. T. Langley, Edward King, James B. Finch, William E. Dennis, George C. Munroe, William C. Burns, Henry Bull, Jethro C. Carr, John J. Bliss, George H. Calvert, William H. Bliss, William Littlefield, Isaiah Crooker.

Henry Bull in the chair, and Job T. Langley, Secretary.

On motion of Samuel Engs:

Resolved: that the meeting of this Corporation, of February 7, 1862, is hereby declared illegal, there being no quorum present.

The following amendment, offered by Edward King, was adopted:

Resolved: that the meeting of this Corporation, of February 7, 1862, is hereby declared illegal, there being no quorum present, and the proceedings of said meeting are hereby rescinded.

George H. Calvert moved that the resolution be laid on the table.

Ayes, including proxies, 35, noes 37.

The question was then put, Shall the resolution pass? which was decided in the negative by the casting vote of the chairman, Henry Bull.

[The Corporation Meeting of February 7th had been called at an unusual time of year for the election of a Rector; there was no need of haste if there had been a desire for an honest expression of opinion, for the Annual Easter Meeting, at which

time such business was transacted, was but a few weeks off; and it was known that very many of the active and influential corporators (whose names do not appear in the list of those present) were absent from town. There were not even corporators enough at the first meeting to organize. At the adjourned meeting there was one more than a quorum present, but not all entitled to a vote; and two of the corporators held between them 29 proxies, within one with their own votes, of double the number of persons on the floor. The meeting had been packed.]

The following officers were elected:

Marshall C. Slocum, *Senior Warden*.

James Birckhead, *Junior Warden*.

David King, Henry Bull, J. D. Ogden, William E. Dennis, Samuel Engs, William C. Gibbs, Benjamin Finch, George C. Mason, William Cornell, Charles Hunter, John H. Cozzens, *Vestrymen*.

May 5, 1862. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation. The following was offered by Benjamin Finch:

Whereas, unhappily, this Corporation is divided in opinion as to the propriety of the call of Rev. O. H. Prescott, to be the permanent pastor of this Parish; and whereas it would be unwise, if not productive of greater divisions, to call any minister who could not command an almost unanimous vote of the Corporation and congregation: therefore,

Resolved: that Dr. King and Gov. Gibbs be a committee to select a candidate to be recommended to the Corporation for approval.

On motion of George H. Calvert, the resolution was laid on the table, by a vote of 41 to 33.

The following communication was received and ordered to be recorded:

Newport, April 5, 1862.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen:

I would like a longer time to consider your invitation to the Rectorship of Trinity Church, but under the circumstances think it might be unreasonable to ask it. Being called upon to give to-day a decisive answer, and considering the work I shall leave unfinished, especially in the preparation of candidates for confirmation, and looking onward to God's judgment when all the deeds of all of us must undergo His scrutiny, Who ordereth all things in the Father's service, I cannot take upon myself so grave a responsibility as to decline officiating any longer among you. I therefore, for the present, until God shall open the way to my relief, accept the weighty charge which, through you, He has laid upon me; and thus, by my own act, in reliance upon Him, as well as by your election, I become the Rector of Trinity Church.

The Charter of our Parish requires my institution "as soon as may be." This expression I take to be incomplete without the addition of the word "expedient"; and the expediency must be judged of by myself as well as you. My feeling now is that under no circumstances will I consent to tie myself down to you, as I should be tied by that office. I therefore append to this qualified acceptance of the Rectorship, these conditions:

1. That I shall not be called upon to be instituted Rector.
2. That I shall have the right to resign at any moment, however soon, when I shall consider such an act consistent with my duty to God and His Church.

With many thanks for your kindness hitherto, and with the prayer that our connection, begun in God, may be continued in Him in peace, and comfort, and success to the Glory of His Great Name, and the salvation of our souls.

I am very faithfully your Servant and Pastor,
O. S. PRESCOTT.

It was moved by Samuel Engs: to take up and consider the resolution of Benjamin Finch, appointing a committee to make a nomination for a Minister.

Moved by William C. Gibbs: that said resolution be indefinitely postponed; which was carried by a vote of 39 to 34.

Moved by George H. Calvert: whereas the legality of the meeting of February 7th has been called in question,

Resolved: that this meeting confirm the whole action of that meeting. Carried by the same party vote, of 39 to 34.

Moved by George C. Mason: that a certified copy of the Corporation meetings of February 7th, April 21st, and of this meeting, be sent to the Rector, and to the Bishop and Standing Committee; which was carried.

August 4, 1862. Meeting of the Vestry. Rev. Mr. Prescott stated that he had received the appointment as Chaplain to the Portsmouth Grove Hospital, and he had called the Vestry together, to ask for a vacation of three months, to enable him to fulfil said appointment, in case he should think it his duty to accept; he supplying the pulpit during the vacation.

On motion of Henry Bull it was voted:

Whereas the Rector has stated to this Vestry, that he had received the appointment as Chaplain for the Portsmouth Grove Hospital, and asked for a vacation of three months, to enable him to fulfil said appointment, in case he should think it his duty to accept;

Whereof it is voted: that it is inexpedient to take any action in the matter before the Rector shall decide whether to accept the appointment or not.

December 26, 1862. Vestry meeting.

On motion of Henry Bull, voted: that the communication from the Rector be received and referred to a committee of three, to report on the same to an adjourned meeting of this Vestry, to be held on the evening of the 2d of January.

January 2, 1863. Adjourned meeting. Voted: that the report of the Committee on Music be adopted and placed on record as follows:

The undersigned, a committee appointed by the Vestry at its last meeting, to examine the subject matter of the choir music, and to report at the next meeting of the Vestry what action, if any, on the part of the Vestry, the interest of the Church requires, beg leave respectfully to report:

That the existing arrangement for music was entered into with Dr. Cutler, 9th of December, 1861; since which time no effort has been spared on the part of the Rector and Wardens, to enable him to carry out his engagement to the satisfaction of the Church; but your committee is of the opinion that the plan has proved a failure, and that a large portion of the congregation, as well as the Wardens and Vestry, and, as I have been informed, the Rector also, believe the music is not what it should be; nor what the liberal sum appropriated by the Corporation can procure.

They are now expending about \$700 per year for choir purposes, and it is a well attested fact that, while the music at Trinity Church is procured at a much greater cost than that of any other Protestant church in the city, there is none upon which impartial criticism is so severe.

Music is a most important element in the worship of the Episcopal Church, and when suitably rendered, inspires sentiments of devotion and praise, second only to the ministrations of the desk, or pulpit. But the style of music now in use in Trinity Church is wanting in devotional influences, too monotonous in its character, insufficient and defective in its execution, and is in no wise calculated to promote the high and holy purposes for which it was designed. Therefore your committee is of opinion that its continuance in Trinity Church cannot fail to reflect discredit, not only upon the Rector, members and Vestry, but also upon the Church at large.

The Psalms and Hymns and Chants of the Prayer Book, in the order of its arrangement, sung to the most approved and popular tunes, long in use and familiar to all, as in the majority of our Churches, are in the opinion of your committee, the most congenial to the tastes of our congregation, and the best adapted to inspire our form of worship with that purity and devotion without which our canonical institutions are of little avail.

The material for securing music of this character is believed to be within our reach; and a reasonable effort on the part of a judicious committee could readily accomplish the reform we so much stand in need of.

Your committee would, therefore, recommend that, as the matter of music is not now wholly in the control of the Vestry, a meeting of the Corporation be called, at the earliest day, to consider and take such action in the matter as the exigences of the case may in their opinion require.

All which is respectfully submitted by

HENRY BULL,

Newport, Jany. 2d, 1862.

Committee.

Voted: that the communication from the Rev. Mr. Prescott, read at the last meeting, be returned to him.

On motion from Benjamin Finch voted:

That, whereas, it is usual for the Vestry to distribute the Christmas offerings, in accordance with a custom of forty years standing, and whereas it has been stated by the Senior Warden that the Rector has distributed a portion of the funds without consulting the Vestry, therefore

Resolved: that the Rev. Mr. Prescott be requested to communicate to this Vestry the amount of the Christmas collection, and whether the same has been disposed of; and, if so, to whom, and what amount to each individual, in order that the Vestry may understandingly distribute the funds now in their hands for the relief of the poor.

Voted: that a Corporation meeting be called for Friday, the 16th day of January, at 3 p. m., to hear a report of the committee on music, appointed by this Vestry, and to transact such other business as may come before the meeting, and that notice of the same be given in the Church, by the Rector, on Sunday next.

Voted: that as the Senior Warden has informed the Vestry

that he should be absent during the month, James Birckhead, Dr. David King and George C. Mason be a committee to fill the pulpit, in case Rev. Mr. Prescott should be absent during that time.

Voted: that when this meeting adjourns, it adjourn to meet on Monday evening next at 7.30 o'clock, to receive the report from Rev. Mr. Prescott, as to his disposition of the Christmas offerings.

Voted: that the Secretary be requested, when he makes known to Rev. Mr. Prescott the vote asking for information in regard to the disposition of the Christmas offerings, to accompany it with the vote of adjournment to hear the report of the Rector.

January 5, 1863. Rev. Mr. Prescott stated to the Vestry that in reply to the request of the Vestry, as to the disposition of the Christmas offerings, he would say that he had distributed the Christmas offerings strictly in accordance with the Canons of the Church, and he therefore declined having anything further to say on the subject.

On motion of Benjamin Finch, voted: that the Rev. Mr. Prescott be respectfully requested to inform the Vestry the amount of the Christmas collection, and to whom and what amount paid to each individual, in order that the Vestry may more understandingly distribute the funds now in their hands for the relief of the poor.

The vote was as follows: aye, Messrs. Finch, Mason, Dr. King, Engs, Dennis, Cozzens and Bull, 7; no, Messrs. Birckhead, Littlefield and Slocum, 3.

Voted: to adjourn to Monday evening next, to receive the answer of Rev. Mr. Prescott on the resolution, and to distribute to the poor the funds now in the hands of the Vestry.

January 13, 1863. The following communication was read, and it was voted: that it be received and placed on the records:

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To the Vestry of Trinity Church:

The disposition of the Offertory on Christmas Day was made with the advice of the Senior Warden. You have been invited to appoint some one of your number, to whom I have promised to give in confidence any information he may desire. Anything further than this would be a breach of professional propriety, which you must excuse me from perpetrating.

Very faithfully your Priest and Rector,
O. S. PRESCOTT.

The Rev. Mr. Prescott having retired, Henry Bull was chosen Chairman.

Voted: that the following communication, signed by the Chairman and Secretary, be forwarded to Rev. O. S. Prescott tomorrow morning.

Newport, January 13th, 1863.

Rev. and Dear Sir:

The Vestry of Trinity Church regret that their Pastor, in his communication received this evening, seems to have misapprehended the object of the resolution passed at a meeting of the Vestry, held on the evening of January 5th.

The sole object of that resolution was to request their Pastor to unite with them on a common ground of confidence and sympathy, and according to the ancient custom of the Church, to distribute wisely and properly the funds for the poor, and in a manner the most agreeable to their feelings.

In order to have that pleasure, the Vestry have adjourned to tomorrow evening, at 7½ o'clock, and request their Pastor to meet them, for the purpose of distributing what funds remain in their hands.

Very respectfully your friends,
THE VESTRY.

To the Rev. O. S. Prescott,
Pastor of Trinity Church.

January 14, 1863. Adjourned meeting of the Vestry. The

following communication from Rev. Mr. Prescott was received and it was voted that it be recorded:

To the Vestry of Trinity Church:

In answering your communication of the 13th inst., I beg leave to say: that I am not aware of any misapprehension of your resolution of the 5th inst.; it is almost identical with that of your meeting of the 2d inst. submitted to me, together with another returning my communication vindicating my disposition of the offertory on Christmas Day.

When I made my communication, dated January 12th, I was decided to be a party to no further discussion of this subject, but to lay it, with all the documents, before the Corporation, some time between this and Easter Monday. Under these circumstances, and believing you entirely capable of performing your full duty in regard to all funds committed to your charge and distribution, I prefer to know the wishes of the Corporation before I act further in this matter.

I am very faithfully your Rector and Servant,

O. S. PRESCOTT.

Newport, January 14th, 1863.

Voted: that the sum of \$96, amount of interest on the original Poor Fund, be taken from the Treasurer and placed in the hands of a committee, to be distributed among the poor of the Church.

Resolved: that in consequence of the refusal of the Rector, and the absence of the Wardens, to give us information of the poor of the Church, that the following list of the poor of the Church, and the several sums appended to them by the Vestry, be placed in the hands of a committee, to be modified by them according to the information they may subsequently obtain.

[Here followed a list of names, with the several amounts they were to receive.]

Voted: that Samuel Engs, J. H. Cozzens, and James Birckhead be that committee.

January 16, 1863. Special meeting of the Corporation; 24 corporators being present.

The following communication was received from Rev. Mr. Prescott, and ordered to be recorded:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

I take advantage of your meeting of this date to make known to all whom it may concern, that in my estimation Almighty God has opened the way to my relief from the weighty charge which He laid upon me, when, by my own act as well as by your election, I became the Rector of Trinity Church.

You will find by referring to my letter of acceptance, that I expressly reserved the right to "resign at any time, however soon, when I should consider such an act consistent with my duty to God and His Church."

In a confidential conversation had with the Chairman of your last meeting, during the time which intervened between my election and acceptance of the Rectorship, I stated very frankly, my willingness to take the position, and my hope that I should be released from it by the end of the year. In this feeling and hope there has been no wavering, and the purpose of this communication is, to make known to you that at your Annual Meeting on Easter Monday, April 6th, 1863, God willing, there will be laid before you my resignation of the Rectorship of this Church, to take effect ten days after the acceptance of his election by my successor is made known to me; provided such acceptance be not unreasonably delayed. And I advertise you of this fact at this early day, that you may be prepared at that annual meeting to go into the election of such successor; and I advise that a committee to nominate such successor be appointed at this present meeting, and that this committee be directed to report at your annual meeting.

And furthermore, according to mine office, and in the name of God, I exhort you to pursue in this matter such measures as shall make for the peace of the Parish, the safety of your

own souls, and the relief of this ancient Church from the obloquy which your dissensions among yourselves have brought upon it.

May God Almighty direct, control and keep you, now and evermore in Him.

Very faithfully your Rector,

OLIVER S. PRESCOTT.

Newport, January 16th, 1863.

On motion of Benjamin Finch, it was

Voted: the Rev. Mr. Prescott having given notice of his intention to resign at Easter, and having invited us to appoint a committee to provide another clergyman, therefore

Resolved: that a committee, consisting of Dr. King, Henry Bull, and James Birkhead be, and they are hereby, appointed, with full power to call a clergyman as Minister or Rector of Trinity Church, at Easter, or as soon after as practicable.

On motion of Edward King,

Voted: that the committee be limited to the sum of two thousand dollars, for the Minister's salary.

The report of the committee on music, to the Vestry, January 2, 1863, being read, on motion of George C. Mason,

Voted: that we concur with the opinions expressed in the report of the committee of the Vestry on the subject of music, which has just been read, and hereby empower the Vestry to do whatever may in their opinion be necessary to secure suitable music for the Church.

January 22, 1863. At the meeting of the Vestry the chairman made it known that Mr. Cutler had tendered his resignation, to take effect after the following Sunday.

Voted: that the whole matter of music be placed in the hands of Henry Bull.

On motion of William Cornell,

Voted: that Rev. Mr. Prescott be allowed a vacation of four weeks, between this and Lent; and that the Senior Warden be requested to inform Mr. Prescott of this vote.

April 6, 1863. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 25 corporators being present.

Henry Bedlow was chosen Chairman, and Job T. Langley, Secretary pro tem.

The following officers were elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Samuel Engs, *Junior Warden*.

David King, Henry Bull, M. C. Slocum, Edward King, Charles Hunter, Benjamin Finch, Job T. Langley, William Cornell, John H. Cozzens, William G. Seabury, James Birkhead, *Vestrymen*.

William Cornell, *Treasurer*.

Job T. Langley, *Secretary*.

April 8, 1863. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation. The following communication from Rev. Mr. Prescott was read:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church, Newport:

Having received the formal consent of the Bishop of the Diocese, given at my own request, I hereby resign the Rectorship of Trinity Church, from and after the tenth day from the date on which the acceptance of said Rectorship by my successor shall be made known to me, provided said acceptance be not unreasonably delayed.

You will recollect that in accepting this office, I reserved the right of resigning whenever it seemed to me expedient.

This renders unnecessary any action of yours in regard to my resignation, my own act being final and absolute.

In thus bringing to a close our connection as Priest and people, covering a period of two years and two months, I sum up my official acts as follows:

Baptized,	28
Presented for Confirmation,	18

Married,	8
Buried,	44

Of the communicants in the latest list upon the books on my accession 199 were found to be still connected with the Church, to whom have been added 142, removed and died 51, leaving the present number 290,⁴⁰ and the whole number on the books during my Rectorship, 341.

I may add that the class awaiting Confirmation will swell this list and show a slight increase since the last Convention.

At Christmas time a question was raised by some members of the Vestry, in regard to the disposal of the alms received that day. So far as I was concerned, I settled the matter by the following communication, which, as it contains a vindication of my mode of administering a trust, which I received from the Church and from you, and not from the Vestry, and a knowledge of it being necessary to an understanding of the history of the Parish during the last year, I make it a part of this my letter of resignation.

“Newport, St. Stephen’s Day,

December 26th, 1862.

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church:

I am advised by my physician not to leave the house to-day. This will hinder my being present at your meeting this evening.

As regards the offerings received yesterday, they will be appropriated in the way I pledged myself they should be in the notice given at public service.

The law of the Church is found in section 3, Canon 12, title 1, and is in these words: ‘The alms and contributions at the administration of the Holy Communion shall be deposited with the Minister of the Parish, or with such Church officer as shall be appointed by him, to be appropriated by the Minister, or under his superintendence, to such pious and charitable uses as shall by him be thought fit.’ Trinity Church, Newport, is a

⁴⁰ THESE numbers were made up in great part of those persons who had been members of the Church for years, but whose names, through the neglect of the previous Rector, had not been recorded.

Parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States; upon it all the laws of that Church are binding: it is in accordance with those laws that I am its 'Priest and Rector,' and you its Wardens and Vestry, and we are equally pledged to see that those laws be not infringed.

Besides our duty in consistency and honesty and honor, there are, unhappily, reasons, growing out of the condition of things in the Parish—a condition for which my Rectorship is in no way responsible—which make the strictest attention to the Canons of the Church the part of wisdom. Your keeping me to them is your best protection, and my keeping them myself, and keeping you to them, is my only safeguard. The violation of a Canon on the part of a clergyman is a serious offence and sin, and a ground for Church discipline, and I am not at all sure if I were to permit the above, or any other, to be broken, that it would not be made a matter of formal complaint to the Ecclesiastical authorities before many hours had passed: at any rate, I will not put myself in anyone's power by running the risk of it.

Let it then be understood, once for all, that under all circumstances and at all times, as Rector of Trinity Church, you will find me, so far as possible, giving and requiring from others obedience to the Constitution and Canons of the Church; and while I shall never knowingly infringe any, even the least, of your rights as Vestrymen, I shall take for granted there is no wish on your part knowingly to invade mine as Rector.

The only way in which the Vestrymen of an Episcopal Church can have anything to do with the appropriation of an offertory, further than by suggestions (which I shall always be glad to receive) is by the Rector's placing such offertory at their disposal, or by taking up one at their request, due notice being given that its disposition will be designated by them. This latter must be done at some service at which the Holy Communion is not administered; and if you request it, I shall very willingly take such an one for you.

On the first of January Mr. Robjohn will be deprived of the means now at his service for drilling the Choir. I would suggest that it is the duty of the Vestry to make some provision

for his convenience, either at the School Room, or at the Church, by heating and lighting, as he may have need.

I wish to notify you, as the representatives of the Corporation, that I propose soon after the first Sunday in January, taking some part of my annual vacation, to which the Rector of Trinity Church has been accustomed.

You will please enter this upon the records of your proceedings.

Wishing you the compliments of the blessed season of peace to men.

I am, Gentlemen, very faithfully,
Your Rector and Servant,
O. S. Prescott."

This communication, by a vote of the Vestrymen, was returned to me; my request that it be entered upon the records of their proceedings being disregarded.

Of this I do not now complain; this is a matter of the past, and of it different persons will form different opinions. My whole intention in regard to it is to provide for its preservation as an act of justice to one whose sole object during his Rectorship, has been the maintenance of the Church's honor and dignity, and the removal out of the way of all hindrances to a real peace in a vexed parish, and the doing of good to your souls, by the fulfilment of all professional duty. If in the pursuit of this object I have given you just cause for prejudice and ill will and opposition, may God forgive me; and if there have been manifested by you without cause on your part, may He forgive you—that when again we stand together at His judgment, we may neither stand there in condemnation of the other.

May God direct, control and keep you.

Your Priest and Rector,
OLIVER S. PRESCOTT.

Newport, April 4th, 1863.

Voted: that the resignation of the Rector, as communicated by him this day, be accepted.

Voted: that the following communication from the old Vestry (drawn by Dr. David King) be read:

Though it is an unusual circumstance for a Vestry to report its acts, in the sphere of its ordinary duty, to the Corporation, such a proceeding, in order to maintain the Church's dignity and honor, and in order to protect its officers from unjust blame when in the exercise of their legitimate duties, becomes necessary by the communication of the Rev. Mr. Prescott to the Corporation, today, of a paper, by which he says he settled a question, raised by some members of the Vestry at Christmas, in regard to the disposal of the Alms received on that day, and by which he informs us he vindicated his mode of administering a Trust, which he "received from the Church and the Corporation and not from the Vestry." The Rev. Gentleman says that he attaches this paper to his letter of resignation, as a knowledge of it is necessary to "an understanding of the history of the Parish during the past year"; and in order to provide for its preservation as an act of justice to himself, who has ever kept in view during his Rectorship, the honor and dignity of the Church, the removal out of the way of all hindrances to a real peace in this vexed Parish, and the doing good to souls by the fulfilment of all professional duty. He informs the Corporation that this letter, dated St. Stephen's Day, was communicated to the Vestry on that day, with the request that it should be entered on their records; but that his request was disregarded, and that the letter was returned to him by the Vestry.

He also says, with regard to this transaction, that "different persons will form different opinions."

Now the Vestry differ from the Rev. Gentleman on this point. It strikes them, that a fair and impartial examination of the circumstances connected with this transaction, can lead but to one opinion, viz.: that the course of proceeding adopted by the Vestry was the only course which they could have adopted consistently with their honor and dignity, as officers of the Church, appointed by you and entrusted by the Church and ancient usage with important duties.

In order that the Corporation may arrive at a correct conclusion with regard to the proceedings of the Vestry in this matter, it will be necessary to state the circumstances which seem to have given occasion to the above letter; and then to examine the letter itself, to see if it contains any matter that would render it improper for the Vestry to enter it upon its records.

At the joyous season of Christmas, in order to make the hearts of the poor glad, by a more liberal distribution of money, it has, for many years, been the custom of Trinity Church, to unite the offerings on Christmas Day with the income of the Poor Fund: and it has been the established practice of the Vestry, from the considerable amount thus collected, to apportion to the poor of the Church such sums as, from the best information as to their wants, they seemed to require. This mode of distribution at Christmas is adapted to subserve the best interests of the poor. It has been sanctioned by the assent of many previous Ministers of the Parish. It is calculated to fulfill an object upon which there can be no rational ground for difference of opinion between Rector and Vestry, viz.: to distribute the sums fairly and impartially, according to the respective necessities of the poor of the Church. The Vestry, justly considering this as one of their important duties, intended to have discharged that duty after the manner of their predecessors in office. A meeting, therefore, of the Vestry was called at the usual time for this purpose, to be held on the evening after Christmas, viz.: 26th of December, 1862.

Now what was the conduct of Rev. Mr. Prescott, in relation to this meeting, called by the Vestry for the fulfilment of an important duty?

Being informed a few days previous to Christmas, by the Senior Warden, of the intended meeting of the Vestry, and of its object, he decided, without communicating with the Vestry, to frustrate their purpose, and accordingly gave notice from the Pulpit on Christmas morning, that offerings presented that day would be distributed in accordance with the Canons of the Church; meaning by that expression, by himself, without cooperating with the Vestry. The offerings were collected, and were actually

distributed by the Rev. Gentleman before the proposed meeting of the Vestry took place. At that meeting, instead of receiving the friendly greeting of the Rector, and his cordial cooperation in, or assent to, the accustomed distribution of the sums collected at Christmas to the poor, the Vestry received the letter which is now made a part of the Rev. Mr. Prescott's letter of resignation.

Now we ask the Corporation if they can see, in this sudden and abrupt decision of the Rector with regard to the alms and oblations at Christmas, any real effort to promote the peace of this Parish, and to sustain the honor and dignity of the Church.

Can any rational, impartial and intelligent member of the Corporation justify this conduct of the Rector, as respectful to the officers of the Church—men who are members of this Corporation, familiarly known to you by long and intimate intercourse, and for years enjoying your confidence and friendship?

But let us examine the letter itself, to see if it contains any matter that would render it improper for the Vestry to enter it upon the Records.

The ostensible object of this letter is to show that the offerings at Christmas could not be united with the income of the Poor Fund, and distributed in the manner intended by the Vestry, without a violation of the Canons of the Church, both by the Rector and the Vestry. Hence the letter contains allusions to the sin and dishonesty of violating the Canons of the Church on this point, and the liability, in consequence, to subjection to Church discipline.

The argument, here, is based on a Canon of the Church, which we here call to the notice of the Corporation by transcribing Canon 12, Sec. 3.

“The Alms and Contributions at the administration of the Holy Communion, shall be deposited with the Minister of the Parish, or with such officer as shall be appointed by him, to be applied by the Minister, or under his superintendence, to such pious and charitable uses as shall by him be thought fit.”

Now it does not require any extraordinary sagacity to perceive that this Canon places it in the power of the Minister of

the Parish, to unite with the officers or Vestry of the Parish, in the distribution of the alms and contributions at the Holy Communion. In perfect consistency with this Canon, the alms, offered at the Communion, might constantly be distributed by the cooperation of the Minister of the Parish, and of the Vestry, provided that mode of distribution were in accordance with usage, and sound reasons existed sustaining that usage. The Canon, indeed, requires the assent of the Minister of the Parish, and the assent of the Minister implies reliance upon, and confidence in, the Vestry. Such an assent to an ancient usage, beneficial in its result, and involving no violation of Canonical law, implies a disposition to preserve peace in the Parish, and could be followed only by favorable consequences.

Such are the views of the Vestry in regard to the Canonical disposal of the offerings at Christmas, and of the bearing of the Canon cited, upon the ancient usage observed at Christmas by the Vestry of Trinity Church.

Now it might be inferred from the phraseology and general tenor of argument in certain portions of the Rev. Gentleman's letter respecting the serious offence of violating Canonical law, that the above views of the Canon are in opposition to his own. Nay, it has been so inferred by the grave majority of the Corporation who have heard the letter read by the Rev. Gentleman from the pulpit, and by the Secretary of this meeting. But the fact is that these views are precisely coincident with his own. Though a rigid constructionist of Canon Law, he admits that a Rector might, if he so willed, have placed the Christmas offering at the disposal of the Vestry; for he says "the only way in which the Vestry can have anything to do with the appropriation of an offertory, is by the Rector placing such offertory at their disposal." The Vestry could have no objection to any conscientious interpretation of this Canon by the Minister of the Parish binding him to a literal observance of its provisions, and excluding therefrom all participation in the disposal of the offerings of the Church. But the Rev. Gentleman presents in his letter no such interpretation as a bar to his compliance with the ancient usage. It was his will, and his will alone, that

prevented that compliance. His determination, therefore, to withdraw the offerings at Christmas, and to reserve to himself the sole distribution of them, was justly regarded by the Vestry, as an act of opposition, and as indicating a want of proper respect to the officers of the Church.

It is not necessary to dwell on the irrelevance of his remarks in this connection, on the sin of violating Canon Law.

Again, to illustrate still further the reasons which prevented the Vestry from entering the letter upon their Records, and which induced them to return it, as an improper communication from the Rector; we call to the attention of the Corporation, the extraneous matter contained in this letter.

How else than disrespectful could the Vestry view the imputation on their honor, as implied in the apprehension expressed by the Rector, of being presented before the Ecclesiastical Authorities for any compliance with their wishes in respect to the subject in question; such compliance involving, as implied in this part of the letter, a violation of Canon Law.

Again, he alludes to a disorderly condition of the Parish, originating in causes independent of his Rectorship—a condition of the Church which the Rector has, at different times, publicly alluded to, thereby wounding the feelings of the real friends of the Church, representing it as a vexed Parish, loaded with obloquy, and abounding with “dissensions, which have made the Church a hissing and a byeword.”

Now the truth is, that the differences of opinion, which existed in the Parish previously to the period of the Rev. Mr. Prescott becoming Minister, had been settled by the unanimous election of Bishop Clark, as Rector; but the differences which have existed during the administration of the Rev. Mr. Prescott, have arisen purely and solely by his Rectorship—he having been elected Rector without a sufficient unanimity, and contrary to the original agreement, made at the time of his being elected Minister of the Parish for one year.

The Vestry have thus explained their conduct in relation to the letter of the Rev. Mr. Prescott, which has been brought to the notice of the Corporation today. Circumstances over which

they had no control, have compelled them to present this vindication, which they trust will be regarded by the Corporation as a full and complete justification of their course.

In conclusion, the Vestry assure the Corporation that they cherish only feelings of kindness towards Mr. Prescott. May prosperity attend his future administrations.

BENJ. FINCH,
GEO. C. MASON,
HENRY BULL,
DAVID KING,
J. H. COZZENS,
SAMUEL ENGS.

Voted: that the communication from members of the Old Vestry, in answer to the Rector's communication, signed by them, have the approval of the Corporation, and be placed on record.

Voted: that the Wardens be a committee to receive and transfer the Records from Rev. Mr. Prescott to his successor, and that they be instructed to examine the Records and report to the Vestry.

Voted: that a committee, William Cornell and Dr. King, be appointed to examine the Charter, and recommend such alterations as they may deem to be for the best interest of the Church.

May 1, 1863. Voted: that Charles Hunter and the Wardens be a committee to confer with Rev. Mr. Prescott, in relation to the disorganized state of the Sunday School.

June 2, 1863. Meeting of the Vestry. The committee appointed to confer with the Rector, as to the disorganized state of the Sunday School; reported, that they had called on Mr. Prescott: he was aware of the disorganization of the School, but thought it best for the School to remain as at present, and to leave the re-organization to his successor.

Voted: that a Corporation meeting be called at the earliest

day, to hear the report of the committee to call a Rector, and to take action on the same, and to transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

Voted: that the Wardens be a committee to examine the grave-stones in the Churchyard, and report at the next meeting what stones require to be replaced.

CHAPTER IX.

1863-1866.

June 11, 1863. Special meeting of the Corporation; 16 corporators being present. Mr. Henry Bull in the chair.

The Chairman stated that the Rev. Mr. Eccleston, of New-ark, N. J., had been called as Rector, but no reply had been received from him.

June 16, 1863. At an adjourned meeting of the Corporation, the Chairman read a letter from Rev. Mr. Eccleston, declining the call as Rector of Trinity Church.

Voted: that the committee be discharged, and that George C. Mason, Samuel Engs and William Cornell, be a new committee to call a clergyman, as Minister or Rector.

July 20, 1863. Special meeting of the Corporation; 18 corporators being present, to hear the report of the committee to call a Rector.

Voted: that the Report of the committee be accepted and placed on the records.

Newport, July 20th, 1863.

The undersigned, appointed a committee to select and call a pastor for Trinity Church, beg to report that they have labored assiduously to the end in view; and after a careful and diligent inquiry for one possessed of the necessary qualifications, are unanimously of the opinion that Rev. J. H. Black, of Sing Sing, New York, is eminently fitted to be our Pastor and Guide; they

have therefore called him to the Rectorship of this Parish, as will be seen by the accompanying copy of a letter addressed to Rev. J. H. Black, Sing Sing, N. Y., by the committee appointed by the Corporation of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I., to select and call a clergyman to the Rectorship of said Church:

Newport, R. I., July 13th, 1863.

Rev. and Dear Sir:

We desire to extend to you, in a more formal manner than the mere verbal call of one of our number on Friday last, the Rectorship of Trinity Parish, in this city, which, through the resignation of Rev. O. S. Prescott, is now without a settled Pastor.

At a late meeting of the Corporation of the Church, the undersigned were appointed a committee to select and call a clergyman, and with the approval and hearty support of the Bishop of the Diocese, we beg to extend to you an invitation to come among us, and be our pastor and guide: promising on our part, in return, to do all in our power, not only to aid and sustain you in your labors, but also to make your stay in Newport alike agreeable to yourself and family; pledging a salary of two thousand dollars, per annum, the maximum allowed by the Corporation.

Mindful of the weight and responsibility imposed upon us by our office, we have prayerfully sought aid from on high in the performance of our work; and we cannot but feel and believe that God is with us: that He has guided our steps in the choice we have made, and that He will bless the connection we seek to establish.

Hoping to hear from you at an early day, and with tokens of the highest respect, we remain, dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

GEO. C. MASON,

WM. CORNELL,

S. ENGS,

Committee.

To Rev. J. H. Black,
Sing Sing, New York.

To the above the following reply was made:

George C. Mason, Esq., Wm. Cornell, Esq., Samuel Engs,
Esq., Committee;

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 13th inst. formally tendering me the Rectorship of Trinity Parish, Newport, with a salary of \$2000 per annum, was received this morning. Since the pleasant interview that I had with one of your number, through whom your desire was made known to me, I have had the subject under prayerful consideration; and I think I see the finger of God directing my way to you. I therefore accept the call to the Rectorship of Trinity Church, and will be ready (D. V.) to enter on my duties the third Sunday in August, or perhaps a little sooner, if you specially desire it.

Thanking you for the expressions of kindness and Christian love contained in your letter, and humbly beseeching the Great Head of the Church that I may be to you a faithful Pastor, successful in winning souls to Christ, and in strengthening those who are already His.

I am, with sentiments of respect and esteem,

Very sincerely and truly yours,

J. H. BLACK.

On motion of James Birkhead,

Voted: that we ratify and approve the action of the Committee, in their selection of a Rector.

On motion of Benjamin Finch,

Whereas, by the terms of the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Prescott, it is necessary to notify him of the appointment of his successor, therefore it is

Voted: that the Wardens be and are hereby appointed a committee to notify the Rev. Mr. Prescott that the Corporation have elected the Rev. J. H. Black, of Sing Sing, N. Y., as his successor.

July 7, 1863. The committee to transfer books and papers from Rev. Mr. Prescott, made the following report to the Vestry, which was received and ordered to be placed on record:

The undersigned, a committee appointed at the Easter meeting of the Corporation, to receive the Parish Records from Rev. O. S. Prescott, when his term of service should expire, and to transfer them to his successor, also to examine said records and report to the Vestry, beg leave to make return of their doings, as follows:

Monday, July 20th, 1863. Your committee informed Rev. Mr. Prescott (whose resignation was to take effect ten days after the election of his successor was made known to him) that Rev. Mr. Black had been duly called as Rector of the Parish, and asked when they should call to receive the books in his possession belonging to the Church. On the following Thursday they received a note from him, appointing Thursday, July 30th, for that purpose; on which day they called at his residence and received from him a package containing a Bible, the old Parish Record, and the new Parish Record; the latter in a wrapper by itself, sealed up, and directed to Rev. Mr. Black, Rector-elect of Trinity Church.

This package your committee opened, and were not a little surprised to find that a portion of the pages of the Record, which is set apart by the Church and confined exclusively to a record of the families, communicants, births, deaths, marriages, confirmations and offerings of the Parish, appropriated to an ex-parte recital of the difficulties between the late Rector and the Vestry, with copies of his own letters to the Wardens, Vestry and Corporation, but in no instance a copy of the communications addressed to him on the subject in dispute—the whole statement being calculated to give his successors, and to all under whose observation the Parish Record may come in future years, the most unjust and unfair impression of the acts of this body; and thus keep alive a state of feeling which has too long existed, and which your committee believe the Vestry desires to see altogether done away.

And when we reflect that all to which these statements and letters relate, to the minutest detail, is a matter of record, in the books of the Vestry and Corporation kept for that purpose, and that under no circumstances would such matter be admissible in a book set apart for a purpose so entirely distinct, the

impropriety of allowing the Parish Record to be so disfigured, must be apparent to all.

Your committee would therefore respectfully recommend that the matter to which your attention is called, be expunged from the Parish Record before they transfer it to the Rector-elect, and that in its place the following entries be made:

“Rev. A. G. Mercer, D. D., resigned the Rectorship of this Parish, April 21st, 1860.

“During the next eleven months the following named Clergymen officiated in Trinity Church, by invitation of the Wardens. [Here followed a list of names, numbering 33 in all.]

“February, 1861. Rev. O. S. Prescott was invited by the Wardens to the temporary charge of the Parish, and on the first Sunday in the month entered upon his duties.

“At the Easter Meeting of the Corporation, April 1, 1861, Rev. O. S. Prescott was elected Minister for one year.

“At a Special Meeting of the Corporation, called for this purpose, Feb. 7th, 1862, Rev. O. S. Prescott was elected Rector.

“At the Easter Meeting of the Corporation, April 4th, 1863, Rev. O. S. Prescott sent in his resignation of the Rectorship of the Parish from and after the tenth day from the date on which the acceptance of said Rectorship by his successor should be made known to him.

“July 20th, 1863. Rev. O. S. Prescott was informed by the Wardens, a committee appointed for that purpose, of the election of his successor, and on the 30th of the same month he closed his connection with the Parish.”

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE C. MASON,
SAMUEL ENGS,
Committee.

Voted: that whereas the Parish Record, when received from Rev. O. S. Prescott by the committee appointed by the Corporation, was found to contain matter believed to be foreign to the purpose for which the book is set apart, and not proper to

remain there, the Wardens be, and they are appointed a committee, to bring the subject matter to the knowledge of the Bishop of the Diocese, for his decision as to the legality of expunging the matter referred to from the Parish Record, or putting in said Record an explanation from the Vestry, taken from the Records of the Vestry; and the committee are further instructed to carry out the suggestions in their report, if sustained in so doing by the Bishop's decision.

October 31, 1863. Meeting of the Vestry. Present: Rev. J. H. Black, Rector; George C. Mason, Samuel Engs, Wardens; Marshall C. Slocum, William Cornell, Job T. Langley, James Birkhead and John H. Cozzens, Vestrymen.

Voted: that the Treasurer, under the sanction of a committee authorized to take legal advice before acting, be authorized to make such change or changes in the lease of land now held by William B. Wilson, as will admit of two parties, instead of one, holding the property, the applicant to pay all expenses; and that Benjamin Finch and M. C. Slocum be that committee.

Voted: that the following report of the committee to take advice from the Bishop, in regard to the propriety of expunging from the Parish Record the matter referred to in their report read at the last meeting, be accepted: That the Bishop could not advise them in the premises, other than to recommend them to take legal advice; but not wishing to carry the matter beyond the Church, they had transferred the books to Rev. Mr. Black, without alteration or change of any kind.

November 4, 1863. At a meeting of the Vestry, the committee appointed at the last meeting to make a change in the lease of land held by William B. Wilson, reported, that having taken legal advice, they deemed it necessary to pass the following vote:

Voted: that the report of the committee be accepted.

Voted: that our Treasurer be, and he is hereby, authorized

and directed to make, sign, and fully execute, in behalf of the Corporation, the following described instruments, namely: A lease for nine hundred and ninety-nine years, at an annual rent of thirty dollars, to William B. Wilson, of the eastern portion of the land leased by the Corporation to said Wilson, by indenture bearing date the second day of November, A. D. 1850. And a lease to Sallie Cresson Lawrence, of the western portion of the same land.

Provided that the dividing line between said portion of said land be so located as to cut the said land into two nearly equal halves; and that such lease shall be made in substantially the same terms as those of the lease above referred to, heretofore made by this Corporation to said Wilson; and that said Wilson shall first surrender to this Corporation all his interest under said last mentioned lease.

March 21, 1864. Meeting of the Vestry.

Voted: whereas, at a meeting of the Vestry, holden November 4, 1863, the Treasurer was authorized to cancel the lease of a lot of land owned by Trinity Church, and called the "Church Lot," given to William B. Wilson by this Vestry, and to substitute in place of said lease two new leases of the property, for the same term of years and jointly for the same annual rent, one to said Wilson and one to Sallie Cresson Lawrence (the first to take the eastern portion of the lot and the latter to take the western portion), it is voted: that the Treasurer be, and he is hereby authorized to substitute the name of George C. Mason for that of William B. Wilson, and William B. Wilson for that of Sallie Cresson Lawrence, and to date the new leases from the thirty-first day of March, 1864, instead of the 14th day of November last; the expense of said transfer to be borne by said Wilson.

March 31, 1864. Meeting of the Corporation; present, the Rector, Rev. J. H. Black, and 15 corporators.

The report of the committee to consider the expediency of revising the Charter, as follows, was received:

"The Committee appointed at the last Annual Meeting of the Corporation, to report on the expediency of revising the Charter of the Church respectfully report: that inasmuch as the present mode of voting by proxy has not only been the direct cause of many of the troubles that have marked the history of the Church during the past few years, and has exerted the most unfavorable influence on the morals and Christian character of the Parish, operating as it does oppressively on members of the Congregation not owning pews, but who have an equal interest in the government of the Church, by allowing non-resident members of other parishes to have a large, if not always a controlling, influence, on the strength of a property qualification in the Church edifice: therefore your committee recommend the appointing of a committee, with power to petition the Legislature of the State, at the next session, for a repeal of the amendment of the Charter of June, 1842, on the last amendment."

Voted: that the report of the committee be adopted, and the same committee be authorized to petition the Legislature for amendment of Charter, as per their report.

December 31, 1864. Voted by the Vestry: that the Senior Warden be a committee to make search for the missing lithograph of the tombstones⁴¹ in the Churchyard, also to find all books and papers now missing, and return them to their proper places.

March 14, 1865. Voted: that the Rector and Senior Warden be a committee to purchase a suitable musical instrument, for use at the School House, not to exceed the sum of three hundred dollars.

⁴¹ The plot of the graveyard is in the safe in the Chapel.

April 17, 1865. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 18 corporators present. George C. Mason chosen Chairman.

Voted: that the interest on the Kay Fund be deposited to the credit of that fund in the Savings Bank, provided that the total deposits do not exceed the amount of the original fund.

The following officers were elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Samuel Engs, *Junior Warden*.

David King, Henry Bull, M. C. Slocum, Edward King, Charles Hunter, Benjamin Finch, Job T. Langley, William Cornell, John H. Cozzens, William G. Seabury and James Birckhead, *Vestrymen*.

Job T. Langley, *Secretary*.

William Cornell, *Treasurer*.

Samuel Engs, John H. Cozzens, George C. Mason and M. C. Slocum, *Delegates to the State Convention*.

The salary of the Rector was fixed at \$2000, and that of the Sexton, \$200. J. G. Spingler was elected Sexton. The sum of \$615 was appropriated for music.

The Treasurer was directed to pay the Church's proportion of the Bishop's salary.

Voted: that the pew tax be at the rate of nine per cent.

The following report from the committee to petition the General Assembly for an amendment of the Charter, was read and accepted:

Easter Monday, 1865.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen:

Your Committee, appointed at the last annual meeting, to petition the Legislature to repeal the amendment of the Charter, of June, 1842, respectfully report: that the Legislature granted so much of the petition as relates to proxy voting; and

by the Act of that body the right of voting is continued to every owner of a pew; male or female, who shall be present at any meeting of the Corporation; as will be seen by the accompanying certified copy of the Act of the Legislature.

WILLIAM CORNELL,
SAMUEL ENGS,
GEO. C. MASON,
Committee.

[The Act has been published with the Charter, in the First Series of the Annals.]

Voted: that George C. Mason and Duncan C. Pell be a committee to have new gravestones put to the graves of Rev. James Honyman and his family, and that of Nathaniel Kay; also to put all tombs and stones of families having no living representatives, in order.

June 27, 1865. Meeting of the Vestry. Present, the Rector and Wardens, and Messrs. Cornell, Finch, Birkhead, Seabury and Cozzens.

Voted: that the music be referred to the Rector.

Voted: that the Senior Warden have the coverings of the pulpit and reading desk put in good order. He was also instructed to have 250 copies of the Charter printed and distributed to pew holders.

Voted: that the Junior Warden notify all pew holders whose pew tax remained unpaid: that unless the taxes were paid within sixty days from July 1st their pews would be sold.

The thanks of the Vestry were voted to the committee who had purchased an organ for the school house.

July 17, 1865. Meeting of the Vestry. Present, the Rector, Wardens and five Vestrymen.

The following communication was read and received:

To the Vestry of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: I have been notified by the Administrator, that the late Russell Coggeshall, in his will, has bequeathed to Trinity Church, sixteen shares in the Newport Bank, to be added to the corporate fund, and which is ready to be transferred to the Church, with the last two dividends, subject to a legacy tax of 6 per cent., provided the Church will give him a bond in the person of the Treasurer and one surety; to indemnify him in case of any demand before the expiration of his administratorship.

WM. CORNELL, Treas.

Voted: that the bequest of the late Russell Coggeshall be received with the thanks of the Vestry; and that the Treasurer and Wardens be authorized to give bond of indemnity to the Executor of the late Russell Coggeshall, for payment of legacy.

Voted: that a committee be appointed to obtain funds by subscription, for the purchase of a house and lot for a parsonage; or to purchase a lot and erect a parsonage.

Voted: that the chair appoint the committee, and the following gentlemen were named: George C. Mason, Edward King and Sidney Brooks.

Voted: that the Rector be added to the committee.

November 3, 1865. Meeting of the Vestry; seven members being present. George C. Mason in the Chair.

One hundred and fifty dollars were appropriated for dressing the Church under the direction of the Wardens.

Voted: that the old melodeon be repaired, at an expense not exceeding five dollars, and presented to the Newport Asylum, by John H. Cozzens.

January 2, 1866. Meeting of the Vestry; the Rector, Wardens, and five Vestrymen present. Meeting opened with prayer.

The committee on the melodeon reported that he had had it repaired without expense to the Church, and that it had been accepted by the Commissioners of the Newport Asylum, as appears by the following communication:

At a meeting of the Commissioners of the Newport Asylum, November 24th, 1865, it was

Resolved: that the thanks of this Board be, and they are hereby, extended to John H. Cozzens, Esq., *et al.*, Vestrymen of Trinity Church, for the present of a melodeon to the Newport Asylum, and that the Secretary be directed to transmit a copy of this vote to said Vestrymen.

Attest,

BENJAMIN MARSH, 2D, Secy.

The following sums were reported, subject to distribution to the poor of the Church:

From the Rector: Christmas offerings,	\$61.18
Dividends on Poor Fund,	116.96
	<hr/>
	\$178.14

Of the above, \$90 were distributed, and the balance was placed in the hands of the Rector, to be disposed of as he saw fit.

Voted: that the Senior Warden be authorized to repair the tombs of the Ayrault and Malbone families.

March 27, 1866. Meeting of the Vestry. On motion of Dr. King,

Resolved: that a committee of three be appointed, to devise a plan for improving the condition of the graveyard and burial ground.

Resolved: that Dr. King, George C. Mason and Samuel Engs be said committee, and that they be requested to report to the Vestry as soon as may be; not only a suitable plan, but also the probable cost of carrying it into execution.

Dr. King informed the Vestry that he had received a monument to the memory of the late Rev. Dr. Wheaton, and moved that a committee be appointed to select a suitable place in the Church for the same.

Voted: that M. C. Slocum and the Wardens be a committee to confer with Mr. Pell, and select a suitable place for the monument of the late Dr. Wheaton.

April 2, 1866. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; the Rector and 17 corporators being present. Dr. King was chosen Chairman.

Voted: that the interest on the Kay Fund be deposited to the credit of that fund in the Savings Bank.

No change was made in the Vestry, other than the election of William E. Dennis in the place of Charles Hunter, and Julius Sayer in place of Henry Bull.

Voted: that Benjamin Finch, Thomas R. Hunter, Henry Bull and M. C. Slocum be a committee to confer with the Rector in regard to his salary, and to report at an adjourned meeting.

April 9, 1866. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation; 16 corporators being present.

The following communication from the Rector was read:

Newport, R. I., April 9th, 1866.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church, Newport;

Gentlemen:

Before accepting your call to the rectorship of this Parish, I objected to the smallness of the salary offered, though the necessities of life were at a moderate price as compared with what they are now, but I had then, and after entering on my duties here, reason to believe that my salary would be increased, if I should find it inadequate to my support. Recently, however, it has come to my knowledge that the salary will probably not be increased according to my expectations. For

this, therefore, and other reasons already known to you, and which it is not necessary here to state, I beg leave to resign my charge as Rector of Trinity Church.

I take this opportunity to express to all who have done me any kindness my grateful appreciation, assuring them, that they have not done it merely to me, but to the Great Shepherd of the Sheep. And doubtless He will not fail to give them a reward; for He has promised to regard what is done to His ministering servants, as done personally to Himself.

With the wish that you may soon find a Pastor on whom you will all unite in loving and supporting, I am

Respectfully yours,

J. H. BLACK.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved: that the resignation of the Rector, the Rev. Mr. Black, presented this day to the Corporation, be accepted.

Resolved: that the thanks of this Corporation be presented to the Rev. Mr. Black for his upright, manly and Christian deportment, and for the sincere devotion which he has uniformly exhibited in promoting the interest of this Church, during his Rectorship.

Resolved: that one thousand dollars be presented by this Corporation to the Rev. Mr. Black, as a token of their respect and regard.

Voted: that the Senior Warden be instructed to furnish the Rector with a copy of these Resolutions.

In compliance with the above the Senior Warden addressed the following letter to Rev. Mr. Black:

Newport, April 9th, 1866.

Rev. J. H. Black,

Rev. and Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Corporation of Trinity Church

holden this day, on the presentation of your resignation of the Rectorship of this Parish, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

[Here follows the above resolutions.]

It is understood that the above sum is to be paid to you by the Treasurer, over and above the quarter's salary that will be due to you in May next.

With many regrets that your connection with the Church has been of so short duration, and with cherished memories of the happiness I have so often derived from your ministry, I remain, dear Sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. C. MASON,

Senior Warden.

Voted: that David King, Edward King and Thomas R. Hunter be a committee to select candidates, to be presented to the Corporation as Rectors.

Voted: that Dr. King, William Cornell and John H. Cozzens, be a committee to make a new valuation of pews, and to advise as to the best plan for raising a larger sum of money.

April 9, 1866. Voted by the Vestry: that the committee on the burying ground be authorized to see if the Crandall Estate can be purchased, and on what terms.

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to hire one thousand dollars to meet the vote of the Corporation.

April 12, 1866. On motion of Dr. King it was

Voted: Whereas Nathaniel Kay, Esq., the King's Collector of Customs for Rhode Island, bequeathed, about the year 1734, to the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, a valuable estate in trust, for the purpose of maintaining a school in connection with Trinity Parish, and for educating ten poor boys, the schoolmaster, if possible, to be in Orders, and qualified to be an Assistant to the Rector of Trinity Church;

And whereas, the said trust, after having been through a long course of years faithfully administered in accordance with the will of the testator, failed subsequently to receive from the Vestry of the Church the attention due to its importance, the object of the testator being unappreciated, and the fund itself in consequence being greatly impaired;

And whereas, the Corporation of Trinity Church, within a few years past, desiring to restore the fund of Mr. Kay, set apart a considerable sum of money, and denominated the said sum the "Kay Fund," which fund amounts now to about three thousand dollars (\$3000) the annual income being from \$180 to \$200.

And whereâs, it is for the interest and honor of the Church, and, in fact, its duty, to continue to carry out the intentions of Mr. Kay as far as possible. Therefore

Be it resolved: that the income of the Kay Fund for the ensuing year be given to the Rev. John Anketell, A. M., who proposes to keep a classical school in Newport, and who, for the said income, is willing to educate four boys of the Parish, and to assist the Rector of Trinity Church in some of his duties.

Voted: that a committee be appointed, with power, to select four of the most meritorious boys for the school; and that David King, Samuel Engs and George C. Mason be that committee.

The committee appointed to see if the Crandall estate could be purchased, reported that Robert Crandall's price for the estate was \$2000, and that he could not give a good title to more than one-half of the estate.

Voted: that the committee be authorized to purchase such portion of the Crandall estate as they can get with a clear title.

June 14, 1866. Special meeting of the Corporation. The following report from the Treasurer was read:

Newport, June 14th, 1866.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen:

The Treasurer respectfully presents the following estimate of the sum necessary to support the Church until July, 1867:

Amount of present indebtedness, including note		
for \$1200 at Rhode Island Union Bank,		\$1560
For Ministers,		2000
Bishop's Salary,		125
Sexton,		200
Choir,		615
Fuel, Gas and Stoves,		175
City tax,		110
Incidentals,		400
		<hr/>
		\$5185
Probable income from Permanent Fund,	\$ 932	
Amount to be raised by tax,	4253	\$5185

13 per cent. on the present valuation of pews will produce about \$4300.

WILLIAM CORNELL, Treasurer.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 13 per cent. on the pew valuation; and that 10 per cent. be added to all bills not paid within sixty days from date.

Voted: that a committee of three, Dr. King, Sidney Brooks and P. A. Stockton, report on the expediency of altering the pews into slips, with a plan and the probable expense.

July 19, 1866. Special meeting of the Corporation; 25 corporators present.

The committee to report on the expediency of altering the pews into slips, presented a plan, at a probable expense of \$4000, and recommended that it be adopted.

Voted: that the report of the committee be laid on the table.

July 25, 1866. The committee appointed at the last meeting of the Vestry to purchase the Crandall estate, were requested to purchase at once; and the Treasurer was instructed to pay to the order of the committee, \$1000.



REV. ISAAC P. WHITE, D.D.

CHAPTER X.

1866-1870.

August 30, 1866. Special meeting of the Corporation.

The committee appointed to nominate a Rector presented a majority and a minority report. The majority recommended Rev. Mr. Rylance, of Cleveland, Ohio; the minority offered the name of Canon White, of Montreal.

On motion an informal ballot was taken: Rev. Mr. Rylance, 10; Rev. Canon White, 6; Rev. Mr. Field, 1.

Voted: that the Rev. Mr. Rylance be called as Rector, with a salary of \$2500, and an additional sum of \$500 for house rent.

Voted: that the committee be authorized to communicate this vote to the Rev. Mr. Rylance, and request his acceptance.

September 20, 1866. Special meeting of the Corporation.

The committee to notify the Rev. Mr. Rylance of his election as Rector, and request his acceptance, reported that he had declined the call.

On motion of Edward King, Canon White, of Montreal, was unanimously called as Rector, with the same salary that was offered Rev. Mr. Rylance. The same committee were authorized to communicate this vote to the Rev. Canon White, and request his acceptance.⁴¹

⁴¹

Rev. I. P. White,
Montreal,

Rev. and Dear Sir:

Newport, R. I., Oct. 29, 1866.

We are in receipt of your letter, advising us that we may expect you to take charge of Trinity Parish the first of December. The

November 1, 1866. Special meeting of the Corporation. The following letter from Rev. I. P. White was read:

Montreal, October 19, 1866.

My dear Sir:

The receipt of the document from the members of Trinity Church, expressing the hope that I should accept the call of the Corporation of said Church, to the Rectorship thereof, and promising to co-operate with me in every way in their power in the work to which I am called, has so greatly encouraged me, received as a pledge of sympathy and earnestness between Pastor and flock, that I am now induced to accept the call.

The matter of rental, referred to in my last communication, will no doubt, if found necessary, be attended to; but I may be in error in regard to charges for rent.

The arrival to a decision has been an anxious period to me, for the severance of a pastoral tie is a painful one. Happily, however, this will be the second only which I have had to experience. The first I feel deeply. At the age of 24 years I was ordained Deacon, remained for a year at Quebec, with the late Bishop Montain, residing in his house, and assisting in the Parish duties, and being desired by him to take the temporary charge of the Parish of Chambly, 14 miles from Montreal, wherein trouble had occurred: was afterwards appointed thereto, and remained for the space of fifteen years. During my in-

gratification we feel at the announcement is shared by many who are looking forward with pleasure to the time when you will be settled over us as our Pastor and Guide. A more fitting time for a connection of this kind to commence could not have been selected; for you will come among us during the season of Advent, and just in time to unite with us in the Christmas festival, which calls out more of our people than any other service of the Church. We are truly sheep without a shepherd. The services of the Church have been duly administered, but the pastoral tie is missing, and we long to cement the bonds that are to make us one. Happily the day is not distant, and we are looking forward with pleasure to joining with you in the services of the Holy Season so near at hand. We know how well you are fitted for your high calling; God grant that we may be led by His Holy Spirit to do our part in the work of the Church.

GEO. C. MASON,
SAMUEL ENGS,
Wardens.

cumbency a Rectory and school house were built, the Church enlarged and repaired, an organ had, an endowment fund raised; and afterward, at the request of the Bishop of Montreal and Dean, came to assist at the Cathedral or Parish Church of Montreal, where I shall have been four and one-half years at the end of this year; and I have the happiness to say that never have I known one unkind word or distant feeling among those with whom I have resided and ministered to.

And I heartily pray and trust that I may be an instrument in God's hands for the continued furtherance of His Church and Glory in the sphere of labor to which I have been called, and that the connection commenced may only be severed by death.

In resigning my appointment here I do not consider it can be effected until December 31st, after which I can enter upon my duty at Newport.

Thanking you most sincerely for all your kindness and consideration, and feeling that in you it will be my happiness to enjoy a kind friend and counsellor, with much respect I remain

Very sincerely yours,

I. P. WHITE.

To David King,

Chairman of Committee of Corporation of Trinity Church.

Voted: Resolved, that the Corporation of Trinity Church legally assembled, receive with pleasure the announcement of the acceptance of the Rectorship of Trinity Church by the Rev. I. P. White, of Montreal.

Resolved: that the Corporation will co-operate with the Rev. Mr. White, in every way in their power, in accomplishing the objects of his Rectorship.

Voted: that the chairman of the committee be requested to communicate the above resolutions to the Rev. I. P. White, and also inform him that the Corporation, as a Corporation, cannot guarantee to him a permanency in the Rectorship, or insure a larger salary than that indicated in the call to the

Church, viz., twenty-five hundred dollars, salary; and an additional five hundred dollars for house rent.

January 4, 1867. Meeting of the Vestry. Present, the Rector, George C. Mason and Samuel Engs, Wardens, and Messrs. Edward King, Benjamin Finch, M. C. Slocum, Job T. Langley, J. H. Cozzens, William E. Dennis, W. G. Seabury, Vestrymen.

A report from Rev. John Anketell⁴² was received.

On motion of the Senior Warden, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas: Rev. Henry B. Sherman, for several months, during the time this Church was without a Rector, performed the pastoral duties in an able and acceptable manner, winning alike the confidence, esteem and respect of the whole Church;

Resolved: that the thanks of this Vestry be and are hereby extended to Rev. Mr. Sherman, and that the Secretary be instructed to furnish him with a copy of this resolution.

Voted: that the Wardens and Treasurer be a committee to propose some plan for the purchase or building of a parsonage, and to report at the next meeting.

	Term.	Year.
Thomas Blakeley,	9.66	
Geo. H. Carr,	8.06	8.28
Benj. W. Hammond,	7.17	7.25
Robert B. Preece,	7.40	7.52

I would respectfully recommend to the committee that *Blakeley*, *Carr*, and *Preece* be continued in their scholarships, and that (if possible) a substitute be found for *Hammond*, who ranks very low in deportment and scholarship.

JOHN ANKETELL.

Newport, Dec. 14, 1866.

There were at that time 48 pupils in the school; but for some reason that cannot be readily explained, the school, like those before it, was not a success, and we hear nothing more of it after that year.

January 9, 1867. Meeting of the Vestry. The Senior Warden in the chair.

The committee appointed at the last meeting, to propose some plan to purchase or to build a parsonage, present the following report.

The undersigned, appointed a committee at the last meeting of the Vestry of Trinity Church, to ascertain if the general fund of the Church, or any portion thereof, could be used for the purchase or erection of a building for a parsonage, beg leave to report.

A reference to the records of the Church make it clear that the Vestry have the power to invest so much of the capital amounting to ten thousand dollars, as they may deem right and proper, in a parsonage or any other property that in their estimation is best calculated to promote the interest of the Church; said fund having been raised by subscription for the purpose of aiding in the support of the Church. The manner of investing it and expending the proceeds was left entirely within the control of the Vestry—the guardians of the Church property under the Charter.

Another duty assigned to your committee was to ascertain on what terms a house could be hired, leased, purchased, or built, for a parsonage. The number of centrally located unfurnished houses to rent or lease is very limited. Mr. Alfred Smith's list offers the following: Philip Rider's house, Touro street, at \$900 per year; and of furnished houses, as follows: Mrs. Ludlow's house, not fully furnished, \$850 per year; Mrs. De Jongh's, opposite the Redwood Library, \$400 for the summer, and \$650 for the year; Mrs. Bowen's house, Spring street, \$650 for the summer, or \$850 for the year; Silas Dickerson's house, William street, \$500 for the year.

Messrs. Hazard & Apthorp offer the following: The Riddell estate, Touro street, furnished, \$1000 per year; Mrs. Lawrence's cottage, Kay street, unfurnished, \$600 per year.

The houses for sale brought to the notice of the Committee, are as follows: Philip Rider's house, Touro street, \$14,000.

Stockton and Griswold house on Touro street, formerly known as the Engs estate, \$15,000, and the Riddell estate, Touro street, \$13,000. Also the Powell house, Greenough Court, \$13,000. Miss Dennis', Kay street, \$10,000.

In regard to building a house, the committee have ascertained that a house well adapted to the purpose, finished in hard wood and supplied with all modern improvements, can be built for the sum of \$11,500, to which must be added the cost of the lot; and should the Vestry elect to put up such a structure, the Committee have been offered a set of plans, and the gratuitous services of an architect, to superintend the construction. A building of this kind, if arranged for without delay, could be ready for acceptance by the 1st of October next, and in the mean time a cottage like that of Mrs. De Jongh, already referred to, would probably meet the wants of the Rector and his family. The Rector is now allowed an annual sum of \$500, towards his house rent; the payment of which sum would no longer be called for, if the Church owned a parsonage. The sum of \$500, represents a capital of \$7000. If the Vestry should deem it proper to set apart this sum for the above purpose, the balance would have to be raised by voluntary subscriptions.

GEO. C. MASON,
SAMUEL ENGS,
WM. CORNELL,
Committee.

Voted: that the report be accepted and recorded.

Voted: that William C. Gibbs and J. H. Cozzens be a committee to solicit subscriptions for the purpose of building or purchasing a suitable building for a parsonage.

March 7, 1867. The following letter, from the Rev. Mr. Sherman, was read to the Vestry, and it was ordered to be placed on the records.

My dear Sir:

I beg to return through you my thankful acknowledgment

of the kind and flattering expressions of regard from the Vestry of Trinity Church, in relation to the temporary and passing services which it was my lot to render in the Parish during the interval of its vacancy. Taken in connection with the remembrance of many kindnesses from members of the congregation, the kindly action of the Vestry, which you have communicated, increases the sum of obligation and of gratitude, of which I beg this may be regarded as the expression.

With warm wishes and fervent prayers for the prosperity of your venerable Church, and kind regards to those whom you represent, I remain, Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

HENRY D. SHERMAN.

To Job T. Langley, Esq.,

Secy. of Vestry of Trinity Church.

January 9, 1867. Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to pay \$600, additional rent, if necessary, after May, for the hire of a house for Rev. Mr. White, for one year, \$500 having been already allowed by the Corporation.

Marshall C. Slocum, William Cornell and J. H. Cozzens were to be a committee to make a new valuation of pews, and report at the Easter meeting.

April 16, 1867. Voted: that the Vestry unanimously recommend the Corporation to accept the report of the committee appointed by the Vestry, March 9th, to make a new valuation of the pews.

Voted: that Dr. King and the Wardens be a committee to see if more sittings can be made in the Church, with power to make such arrangements as they may deem best.

Voted: that the Wardens and William E. Dennis be a committee to have the Church thoroughly cleaned, procure new carpets, and to make such other improvements as are suggested by the Senior Warden, at a cost not to exceed \$1200.

April 22, 1869. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 20 corporators being present. Dr. King in the chair.

The Treasurer's estimate for the year was ordered to be recorded.

Easter Monday, 1867.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

The Treasurer respectfully reports that the expenditures of the past year, including \$1000 paid for the Crandall lot, amount to \$6060.17, and the receipts from taxes, rents and permanent funds, \$5352.65, showing that we have spent \$707.52 more than our income; the balance in the Treasury is already due to the Rector and choir, so that we have nothing to meet our bills from this time to July. The following estimate for the ensuing year is submitted for your consideration:

Rector's salary and house rent,	\$3550	
Supplies during vacation,	100	
Music,	615	
Bishop's salary,	100	
Sexton's salary,	200	
Convocation expenses,	25	
City tax,	110	
Fuel, stoves and gas,	300	
Cleaning Church,	1200	
Incidentals,	500	
Note at Bank,	1200	
		<hr/>
		\$7900
Income from Permanent Fund,	\$950	
Land rent,	120	1070
		<hr/>
		\$6830

To meet the balance will require a tax of 21 per cent. on the old valuation, or 13 per cent. on the new valuation recommended by the Vestry.

WILLIAM CORNELL,
Treasurer.

Report of the Committee on valuation of pews, appointed at a meeting of the Vestry, March 7th, 1867.

That they find some irregularity in the past valuation, and recommend that a more equal and just valuation be established, on which to assess the future tax, as per the schedule herewith presented.

The present valuation of pews on the lower floor amounts to \$32,350. The gallery pews are estimated at \$1000 on which the taxes have been assessed. The new valuation, which your Committee propose, makes the gross amount of \$39,350, which at the present rate of tax, of 13 per cent., will give an increased tax of \$750, which, though a small increase, they consider as based on a more equal relative value; and respectfully submit for your consideration.

M. C. SLOCUM.
WILLIAM CORNELL,
J. H. COZZENS.

Newport, April 16, 1867.

At a meeting of the Vestry, April 16, 1867, the report of the Committee on valuation of pews was called for, and after due consideration, it was unanimously approved of and

Resolved: that the Vestry recommend the adoption of the accompanying "valuation of pews" to the Corporation at their Easter meeting, as an established value on which to assess the annual rate of tax.

The committee on additional pews have in progress a plan which will give about 18 additional pews, in slips, in the gallery; but the work is not sufficiently advanced for your committee to affix a value.

Voted: that the report of the committee be adopted; and that the same committee value the additional pews when completed, and report to the Vestry.

Voted: that the tax be fifteen (15) per cent. on the new valuation.

In the annual election of officers of the Church no change was made.

Voted: that the committee on cleaning the Church be authorized to close up the bulls-eyes (windows) in the chancel, and the windows on the east and west ends of the Church.

On motion of George C. Mason it was

Resolved: the importance of having enlarged accommodations for the Parish Sunday School having been brought to the attention of the Corporation, with a proposition either to sell the present school house and lot and buy and build elsewhere, or to sell off the school house now on the site, it was unanimously

Voted: that the subject matter be referred to the Vestry, with full power to act as that body may deem best for the interest of the Church; provided that the Treasurer shall not be called upon to supply the necessary funds for such changes or improvements.

June 3, 1867. Report of the committee to make a valuation of the new pews, received and adopted:

Newport, June 3, 1867.

The Committee on Valuation of Pews in Trinity Church⁴³ respectfully report on the additional pews, viz.:

There has been placed two temporary pews, on each side of the Chancel rail, which they value at \$300 each, the places be-

⁴³ In the new valuation pews Nos. 1, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 33 and 35 were appraised at \$300 each.

Nos. 2, 3, 4, 34, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 100, 28, 31, 32, 42, 53, 82, 83, 85, 86, 90 and 99 at \$350 each.

Nos. 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 69, 70, 98, 97, 96, 95, 94, 93, 92, 91, 89, 88, 87 at \$400 each.

Nos. 58, 81, 29, 30 at \$450 each.

Nos. 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80 at \$500 each, 19, \$500.

Nos. 36 and 37 at \$200 each.

Nos. 56, 83, 84, 18 at \$250 each.

ing required for the stoves during the winter. Twelve pews have been added along the wall, in the north gallery, numbered 19 to 31; ten of which, from 19 to 29, they value at \$75 each. Nos. 30 and 31 at \$50 each.

Six pews have been added, adjoining the organ, five of which they value at \$200 each; the others on the north side being open as a slip, and may be used also as a passage for the Choir, valued at \$150.

One pew has also been made at East end of the south gallery, which they value at \$50.

MARSHALL C. SLOCUM,
WILLIAM CORNELL,
J. H. COZZENS,
Committee.

Voted: that the new pews be placed in the hands of the Junior Warden, to let; with power to reserve such pews as he may think best, as free pews.

Voted: that the Sexton be instructed not to act, after this date, as agent for the sale or leasing of any pew in Trinity Church, without a power of attorney from the owner of said pew; said power of attorney to be submitted for the approval of the Wardens before the Sexton can act under it.

Voted: that the Secretary be authorized to effect insurance on the Church, for an amount not less than \$16,000, or more than \$20,000, on the best terms.

July 9, 1867. Meeting of the Vestry; the Rector, Wardens and eight Vestrymen being present. The Rector in the chair.

The following report from the Treasurer was read and accepted:

To the Vestry of Trinity Church;

The Treasurer respectfully submits this statement:

At Easter our expenses were estimated at	\$7900
Our income will probably be	\$6900
Leaving a balance of	\$1000

Our estimate at Easter included \$1200 for cleaning and renovating the Church; but the reports of the Committee show that it has been necessary to spend \$3060 for that purpose; and we must also add \$200 for insurance, which will make the balance against us at the end of the year, \$3060.

The Treasurer has hired \$1500, to meet the immediate demands of the Committee.

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to hire \$1500, to meet the expenses incurred in repairing the Church.

A report from Rev. J. Anketell was read and ordered to be placed on file.

Resolved: that the Sexton shall in no case rent a pew for any person who demands for the same, for the season or a year, more than the amount of the annual tax on said pew, and that the Wardens be instructed to see that this resolution is strictly carried out.

Voted: that the Senior Warden have the fence of the Crandall estate removed to the south line.

Voted: that the Wardens send a printed circular to the owners and occupants of pews—asking them to co-operate with the Vestry in sitting visitors, and signify to the Wardens their objection, if any, to having vacant seats filled by the Sexton, after the reading of the Psalms.

July 26, 1867. Voted: that the interest of the Kay Fund for one year be given to Miss Mary C. Handy, to educate not more than ten children under the direction of the Rector, who shall have the selection of said children.

Voted: that John H. Cozzens and Marshall C. Slocum be a committee to report at the next meeting of the Vestry on the subject of a new school house.

August 19, 1867. Meeting of the Vestry; the Rector, Wardens and Messrs. Edward King, Slocum, Seabury, Cornell, Birk-

head, Langley, Cozzens and Dennis, Vestrymen, being present. The Rector in the chair. Meeting opened with prayer.

The following report was read and received:

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church:

The Committee appointed at a meeting of the Vestry of Trinity Church, held July 26, 1867, to take into consideration and report upon the subject of the Sunday School House, &c., respectfully report: that they consider the present building inadequate for the purpose of the Sunday School, and deficient in accommodation for the occasional services of the Church or lecture room, and would not warrant the necessary outlay to make it available therefor.

Your Committee recommend that a new building be erected, of dimensions and conveniences adapted to the purpose, which they infer, from information obtained from artists and builders, might be erected of stone at a cost of from \$10,000 to \$12,000.

The lot on which the present school house stands is too limited in dimensions; and sufficient land for the purpose cannot be obtained adjoining thereto; the situation is also objectionable, being located rather distant from the Church, with other disadvantages.

The lot of land recently purchased on Frank street, at the west end and adjoining the Church, is also too small for the necessary structure, and is subject to various objections.

The Committee have endeavored to find a lot of land not far distant from the Church, and suitable for the purpose, with due regard also to the cost of the same, and no location appears to them more prominent and desirable than the premises at the North West corner of Church and High streets, late the property of the "Moravian Church";⁴⁴ the dimensions of which

⁴⁴ THE MORAVIANS or United Brethren were organized as a Society in Newport, in 1758, though some attention had been paid to their form of worship as early as 1749. It was a most respectable body, and the pastors who were in succession over it were esteemed for their devotion to their work and the purity of their lives. But the church did not increase—rather fell off—for there were no accessions of any moment, and finally the prop-

are about 72 by 82 feet, and can now be purchased for a small amount over \$4000 (has been held at \$5000), but in consideration of the use intended, we are inclined to infer may be obtained for \$4000.

There are so many circumstances favoring this site, that your Committee recommend the immediate purchase of the same, to be secured in readiness to occupy when our resources will warrant the structure.

The proceeds from the late Fair having amounted to rising \$5000, a portion of it might be appropriated to the purchase of the lot, and the remainder be invested as an accumulating fund. The building now on the lot would produce a moderate sum, by letting, until required, and then disposed of.

The premises at present held by Trinity Church, as a school house, might be made available, by sale of lease or letting, to produce, say \$2000, which by appropriating to the fund for the sacred use in the erection of the new Sunday School House and Chapel, appears to be warranted; and certainly as nearly consistent in carrying out the original intent of the donor as circumstances will warrant.

The balance required to meet the probable cost of the proposed edifice, say \$8000, to be made up by contributions solicited forthwith of those interested in this very desirable object; which your Committee trust may be accomplished so as to commence the erection of the building early in the ensuing spring;

erty, no longer used as a place of worship, was sold as above. The building was removed, and the few remains of those who slept in the grounds, were taken to the Island Cemetery and deposited in a lot secured for that purpose. Miss Towle, whose name is mentioned in the First Series of "The Annals," as an organist of Trinity Church, was the daughter of Rev. Samuel Towle, who was the settled Pastor of the Moravians from 1803 to 1819. Another Pastor was Rev. Charles Anthony Van Vleck, who was here from 1827 to 1834, and was greatly beloved by all who knew him. In the course of his ministry he had labored in North Carolina, Lancaster, York, and Nazareth, Penn., as well as at Newport. At one time he held a professorship in the Theological Seminary, at Bethlehem, and at the time of his death, December 21, 1845, he was principal of the college at Greenville, Tenn.

but they cannot recommend the outlay undertaken until the greater portion of the means required is at command, or guaranteed.

In addition to the foregoing resources, the committee would call your attention to the Kay Fund, so long unavailable in the direct use intended by the liberal donor, and now amounting to nearly \$3000 with but little prospect of a more suitable application; and which they think might be appropriated in aiding this desirable work of building an edifice, wherein the youthful mind may be schooled in the holy principles of our Church, and the more mature enlightened and encouraged in the sacred duties of our profession; certainly consistent with and in honor to the purposes of the Fund—not wasted or diverted, but in future subject still to your control.

As to the more minute detail of design, material and cost, they recommend that information be obtained from some competent architect. They further suggest that the “new artificial stone,” now coming into use, is a material worthy of your consideration. All of which is respectfully submitted to your judicious consideration by your Committee.

MARSHALL C. SLOCUM,
JOHN H. COZZENS.

Newport, Aug. 19, 1867.

Voted: that the report of the committee be accepted, and that they be authorized to purchase the “Moravian Church lot,” and invest the Kay Fund in the purchase thereof.

Voted: that the same committee be requested to obtain a plan of the new school house and chapel, and to solicit contributions from the pew owners and occupants, to the amount of \$5000—the balance required to erect the building.

August 29, 1867. On motion of Edward King, it was

Voted: that the Kay Fund, amounting to about \$3000, which was ordered to be invested in the purchase of the Moravian Church lot, at the last meeting; it was not intended thereby to annihilate said fund, but that the Church might be responsible

therefor, and account for the same, and the interest thereon, whenever the intentions of Mr. Kay could be more fully ascertained and carried out.

On motion of George C. Mason,

Voted: that a committee be appointed to make search for all facts connected in any way with the bequest from the late Nathaniel Kay, and how the proceeds have been appropriated.

Voted: that the Wardens and Dr. King be that committee.

October 9, 1867. Voted: that the Wardens report a plan for heating the Church.

October 11, 1867. J. H. Cozzens, Treasurer of the Sunday School Fund Fair, reported the following sum of money in his hands, subject to the action of the Vestry: say,

Proceeds of Fair, &c.,	\$5673.38
Bank stock and cash, from Kay Fund,	2918.56
	<hr/>
	\$8591.94
Less expenses of Fair,	259.18
	<hr/>
	\$8332.76

Paid for purchase of Moravian Church lot, \$2000.00

Cash deposited in Savings Bank, 4732.76

16 shares of Bank stock, 1600.00 \$8332.76

Voted: that the report be received and placed on file.

Voted: that John H. Cozzens be Treasurer of the School House Fund.

Voted: that the new school house be built of stone.

Voted: that the building be called the "Kay School House."

Voted: that a committee of three, the Rector, Edward King, and J. H. Cozzens, be a building committee.

Voted: that the offer of Gov. Gibbs for the stone required for the building of the new school house, be accepted, with the thanks of the Vestry.

Voted: that Samuel Engs be added to the Building Committee.

October 14, 1867. The committee on heating the Church reported two plans—one from William H. Bliss and one from Brown, Goddard & Barlow.

Voted: that the Bliss plan be accepted, and that a contract be made with William H. Bliss, to carry it out.

December 5, 1867. Voted: that \$100 be appropriated for dressing the Church at Christmas, under the direction of the Wardens.

The following communication was read by the Rector:

To the Rev. Mr. White and the Wardens of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: In pursuance of a recommendation of the Bishop, the undersigned, in behalf of a committee appointed by the Vestry of Zion Church officially to do so, acquaints you with the fact that Zion Church, in this city, is closed for public worship, and for reasons, which we are prepared to state, is not likely to be re-opened. We ask you, therefore, to call together the leading Churchmen of the several Parishes in the city, to consider what is best to be done under the circumstances.

I remain very respectfully, Gentlemen,

Yours, &c.,

W. S. CHILD,
Rector of Zion Church.

Newport, R. I.,
Dec. 3d, 1867.

Voted: that the following communication be addressed to the Rev. Mr. Child, in answer:

“Your communication of 3d inst. to the Rector and Wardens of Trinity Church, was by them laid before a meeting of the Vestry of said Church this evening.

“While the Vestry much regret to learn the fact that Zion

Church is closed for public worship, the Vestry of Trinity Church do not consider it becoming in them to make the call asked for in your communication, and that such call, if made, should rather proceed from the Chief Pastor of the Church in this Diocese."

Voted: that the Secretary be requested to communicate to the Rev. Mr. Child the action of this Vestry on his communication.

February 24, 1868. Samuel Engs offered the following resolution: that the Building Committee be instructed to go on and build a wooden school house, provided they can do so out of any funds they may have in hand, or can raise without running the Church in debt; and the same committee be authorized to sell the building now on the Moravian lot.

Edward King offered the following amendment:

Provided: that the interest on the Kay Fund money (\$2900) shall be paid annually to the Savings Bank, to the credit of said Fund, from the date of its being borrowed.

Which amendment was lost.

The resolution was then carried.

Voted: that the amendment offered by Mr. King be re-considered.

Voted: that the amendment be accepted.

The request of Samuel Engs to be discharged from the committee to make search for all facts connected with the bequest of the late Nathaniel Kay, was granted, and James Birkhead was appointed in his place.

April 8, 1868. Voted: that the Senior Warden be authorized to take from the safe any books or papers he may require in his search for facts in relation to the Kay Fund.

On motion of John H. Cozzens, it was

Resolved; that from the report of the committee appointed to solicit subscriptions for building the new school house, it seems that they have, pledged and cash, in hand a sufficient sum to warrant them to build of brick; it is therefore

Voted: that the Building Committee be authorized to contract at once for a brick building, not to exceed the sum of \$1000, exclusive of the lot, unless contributions beyond \$1000 be made.

April 13, 1868. Annual Meeting; 17 corporators present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The following communication from the Treasurer was received and ordered to be recorded:

Newport, Easter Monday, 1868.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

The Treasurer respectfully reports, that the ordinary expenses of the Parish for the past year amounted to about \$5550. The extraordinary expenses to \$5800, viz.: renovating the Church, \$3040; organ, \$196; Church Yard, \$260; furnaces, \$1000; note paid at bank, \$1200; interest, \$105. The Permanent Fund and taxes have produced an income of \$6856; the balance has been met by hiring \$4000, by order of the Vestry. The present amount in the Treasury will fall short, probably, \$800, of meeting the bills by the time of collecting the July tax.

The following estimate of expenses for the ensuing year is submitted for the consideration of the Corporation:

Rector's salary and rent,	\$3550.
Music,	800
Bishop's salary and Convention expenses,	125
Sexton,	250
City tax,	150
Fuel and gas,	300
Debt and interest, to be paid in July,	4145
Interest on Kay Fund,	180
Insurance,	150
Incidentals,	500

	\$10,150
Less income from Permanent Fund,	1,050

\$9,100

If the interest only is paid and the debt remains, the sum required to be raised by tax will be reduced to \$5300. The first estimate will require a tax of 24 per cent., and the second, 14 per cent.

The Treasurer would respectfully recommend, that we return to the former way of collecting the taxes—in April and October, in order that the financial year may begin and end at Easter, which seems to be the proper time; as the taxes are now collected we must either make an estimate to extend three months after Easter, or be without funds from Easter to July. If in view of assessing a special tax, it is deemed unadvisable to bring so many collections into one year, I hope that the Corporation will order the change to be made at April next, as the amount named in the foregoing estimate will certainly leave the Treasury quite empty, and perhaps a little in debt, at Easter.

WILLIAM CORNELL,
Treasurer.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 14 per cent., and a special tax of 10 per cent.; the special tax to be paid September 1st.

No change was made in the election of officers.

Voted: that the Vestry have power to remit the special tax to such persons as in their opinion it will be a hardship to pay it.

April 17, 1868. Voted: that Richard Swan be re-appointed Organist, at a salary of \$200 per year; and that he be paid \$25, for additional services during the past Lent.

May 27, 1868. Voted: that the special tax shall not be assessed upon the Corporation pews.

The Building Committee reported that the size of the school house having been greatly increased from the original plan, they cannot build it for less than \$11,000.

Voted: that the Building Committee be authorized to proceed with the building of the Chapel according to the plans which have been submitted to them.

June 30, 1868. Voted: that the Wardens be authorized to dispose of the school house lot, building and fixtures for not less than \$2000; possession to be given when the new school house is completed.

November 26, 1868. Voted: that \$100 be appropriated for dressing the Church at Christmas, under the direction of the Wardens.

The committee appointed to sell the school house, reported that they had sold it to the Shiloh Baptist Church, they to have possession on the 1st of December.

Voted: that the Wardens make the best arrangement they can with the purchasers of the school house, for the extension of the time of giving possession, until the new school house is completed.

December 31, 1868. The Wardens reported that they had hired the school house of the purchasers until February 1st for \$40.

January 7, 1869. The Building Committee reported the school house completed, at a cost of about \$1400 exclusive of the lot, and that it will be necessary for the Vestry to furnish the sum of \$2000 to enable the Treasurer to pay the balance due.

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to renew the note of \$1000 now due to S. Brown, and to hire an additional sum, not to exceed \$2000, to pay the bills on the new school house.

The Secretary, on behalf of Finch, Engs & Co., reports they will pay the order of the Building Committee for the sum of \$250, being the profits on materials furnished by them for building the new school house.

Voted: that the Rector and Samuel Engs be a committee to purchase a cabinet organ suitable for the school house.

The chairman stated he had been offered a sum of money, of about \$125, towards purchasing an organ for the chapel, on condition that the Vestry contribute the balance.

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to pay to the Organ Committee the balance necessary to purchase an organ, not to exceed \$300.

Voted: that the Rector be authorized to call Mr. Hill, of Minnesota, as Organist and Chorister of the Church, for one year, from Easter next, at the salary of \$500, with the understanding that if his services were not satisfactory to the Vestry they be discontinued at the expiration of three months, they paying him one quarter's salary.

February 10, 1869. The Rector informed the Vestry that Mr. Hill had accepted the call, as organist and chorister, and would be here about the 1st of April.

The Wardens were authorized to sell the melodeon used by the Sunday School.

March 11, 1869. Voted: that the Treasurer make a deed of the old school house, under direction of the committee authorized to sell it; and he was authorized to negotiate, when he could do so to advantage, the mortgage to be given in part payment, and turn the proceeds over to the Building Committee.

March 29, 1869. Annual Meeting; 15 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The following communication from the Treasurer was received and ordered to be recorded:

Easter Monday, 1869.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

The Treasurer respectfully reports that the credit side of his present account is increased \$1000 by the sale of a mortgage on the old School House for that amount; which belongs to the fund for building the new School House, and is subject to the order of the Building Committee. There will be no income until July, unless the time for collecting is changed, as recommended

in my report at Easter last. It will therefore be necessary to make some provision for the interval.

About \$1200 will be needed for salaries during the next quarter and bills now due.

Estimate for the ensuing year:

Rector's salary and house rent,	\$3550
Music,	900
Bishop's Salary,	110
Convention expenses,	40
Sexton,	300
City tax,	150
Fuel and gas,	300
Interest on School House debt,	280
Interest on Kay Fund,	182
Insurance,	190
Incidentals,	500
Total,	\$6502
Income from Permanent Fund,	\$975
Income from land rent,	120
Pew tax at 14 per cent.,	5425
	\$6520

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 14 per cent.

The Wardens and Vestrymen were re-elected, except that John S. DeBlois took the place of Julius Sayer.

March 31, 1869. Voted: that the Secretary be instructed to present to Miss Carrie Newman⁴⁵ the thanks of this Vestry for

⁴⁵ THE SECRETARY addressed the following note to Miss Newman:

Newport, R. I., April 1st, 1869.

Miss Newman:

It is my pleasing duty to convey to you the thanks of the Vestry of Trinity Church, for your kind and valued services, in the following vote, passed unanimously at a Vestry meeting last evening; and which called forth the warm commendation of the Rector and the members present, who all appreciate your unremitted labors, during the recent services in Kay Chapel.

Yours respectfully,

JOB T. LANGLEY, Sec'y.

Here followed a copy of the vote of the Vestry.

her valued services, in playing for the choir during the whole of the recent Lenten services in Kay Chapel.

Voted: that the Senior Warden be a committee to prepare and have placed in Kay Chapel a handsome and appropriate tablet, to the memory of the late Nathaniel Kay, whose revered name has been given to this edifice.⁴⁶

March 17, 1869. Voted: that the Wardens be authorized to restore the headstone to the grave of Mrs. Malbone, in the churchyard, which was broken during the past winter.

September 1, 1869. The committee appointed at the last meeting, to investigate and report if any improvement can be made in heating the Church, report that they have, with Mr. Fludder, been under the Church, and think that the furnaces can be placed there, by excavating, at an expense of from \$500 to \$1200.

Voted: that the committee be requested to procure a detail statement of the expense of placing the furnaces under the Church, and report at an adjourned meeting, on Wednesday evening next.

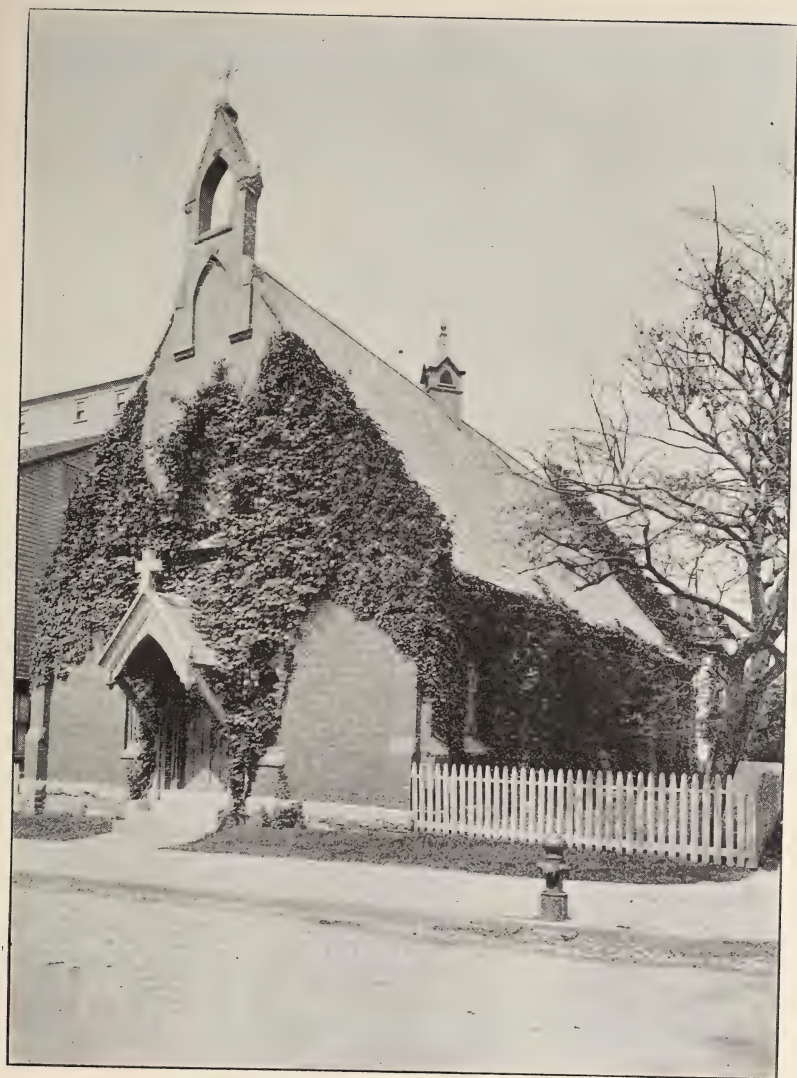
September 20, 1869. The committee appointed at the last meeting to procure a detail statement of the expense of placing the furnaces under the Church, present the following estimate from William Fludder:

SACRED
To The Memory
Of

NATHANIEL KAY, Esq.,

Collector of King's Customs in Newport,
R. I., during the early part of the Eighteenth
Century.

This Building, designed for the use of the Sunday School attached to Trinity Church, was erected by the Vestry, A. D. 1869, in part with funds left by him, to the "Minister, Church Wardens and Vestry of the English Church in Newport," for Educational purposes.



KAY CHAPEL.

Excavating and cleaning walls for pointing,	\$50.00
Cutting doorway and steps,	67.25
Concreting floor and draining,	75.00
Re-setting wall,	50.00
200 ft. of drain,	100.00
Taking down furnaces and cleaning stock,	20.00
Re-setting furnaces, labor and stock,	90.00
Building two chimneys,	160.00
Repairing plastering in organ gallery,	6.00
Lathing and plastering ceiling in furnace room,	30.00
Barker & Popple, labor,	260.00
Brown, Goddard & Barlow,	75.00
	<hr/>
	\$983.25

Voted: that the committee place the furnaces under the Church, in the most economical manner.

October 29, 1869. Voted: that the Treasurer be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to make, sign, seal with our corporate seal, and fully execute and acknowledge and deliver, in behalf of this Corporation, the following instrument, viz.:

"A lease for nine hundred and ninety-nine years, to George C. Mason, of the northern portion of the land leased by this Corporation to said Mason, by indenture bearing date, March 31st, A. D. 1864, at an annual rent of fifteen dollars; and another lease for the same term, at the same rent, to Allayne Otis, of the southern portion of said land; provided that the dividing line between said portions of said land be so drawn and fixed, as to cut said land into two nearly equal halves; and that said leases shall each be made in substantially the same terms as said former lease to Mason, of March 31st, 1864; and that said Mason shall first surrender to this Corporation all his right, title and interest under said last mentioned lease."

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to pay to Mrs. Pratt the expense of repairing the roof of her house; damaged by the falling of trees in the churchyard, in the gale of September 8th.

CHAPTER XI.

1870-1872.

April 18, 1870. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 16 corporators being present. Thomas R. Hunter was chosen chairman.

The following communication from the Treasurer was received and ordered to be recorded:

Easter Monday, 1870.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

The Treasurer respectfully reports that the sum of \$1200, hired at the beginning of the year, was paid from the July tax; also \$1000 of the amount hired on account of the School House, has been paid by the Treasurer of the School House Committee; leaving a note for \$1000 on account of the School House, and another for \$1500 on account of furnace alterations, still standing.

Although the income from the Permanent Fund for the past year was much larger than usual, we fall short \$239 of meeting our current expenses.

[The estimate of expenses for the year was \$6689.]

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent., to pay current expenses, the debt on the Church and the painting of the Church.

The following officers were elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Samuel Engs, *Junior Warden*.

Marshall C. Slocum, Edward King, Benjamin Finch, Job. T.

Langley, William Cornell, John H. Cozzens, William G. Seabury, William E. Dennis, Charles Hunter, George W. Gibbs and Thomas R. Hunter, *Vestrymen*.

Samuel Engs, George C. Mason, J. H. Cozzens and M. C. Slocum, *Delegates to the State Convention*.

Job T. Langley, *Secretary*.

William Cornell, *Treasurer*.

Voted: that John H. Cozzens be discharged as Treasurer of the Kay School [House] and that the thanks of the Vestry be presented to him for the faithful discharge of his duties.

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to hire the sum of \$2000, whenever he requires it, to meet the obligations of the Church previous to the collection of the July tax.

A communication from Dr. King read. [A minority report; see further on.]

The committee appointed, August 29, 1867, to make search for all facts connected in any way with the bequest from the late Nathaniel Kay, and how the proceeds have been appropriated, presented a majority and a minority report, which were read and ordered to be recorded.

Voted: that the Secretary be authorized to employ some one to copy said reports on the records.

Voted: that the Senior Warden be requested to add to the majority report, the cost of the Kay School House, and how the money to build it was obtained.

[THE MAJORITY REPORT.]

To the Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I.:

The committee appointed to collect all the facts connected with the history of the Kay Fund, respectfully beg leave to report that they have made diligent search, and with the following result.

The first mention of Mr. Kay's donation, in the Records of

the Church, appears under date of July 8, 1734, and is as follows:

“Ordered, that the Minister and Church Wardens receive of Mrs. Ann Kay the £200, left Trinity Church by her late husband, Nathaniel Kay, Esq., deceased, viz: £100, in and for the use of the said Church, and that the same be applied accordingly.”

The next reference is under date of April 14, 1740, and is as follows: “Voted: that the house and lot where Nathaniel Kay dwelt, together with the lot of land let to Mr. John Bennett, be let out for the sum of £130 per annum, and that whoever shall hire the same shall give security for the payment of the rent quarterly.”

April 24, 1740. It was “ordered that the £400, given by Nathaniel Kay, Esq., deceased, for the building of a Grammar School, be let out to such persons as shall hire the same with sufficient sureties.”

In December of this year (1740) it was “ordered that the Committee appointed to discourse Capt. Ezbon Sanford about building a School House, do agree with him, or some other suitable person, to build the same, and call in the money that was left for that purpose to do it with.”

While the Committee were carrying out these instructions, Rev. Mr. Honyman was desired, September 21, 1741, “to acquaint Mr. Cornelius Bennett, that if he is willing to take the School House here, upon the following terms, he may enter as soon as the School House is finished, viz.: upon the donation given by Nathaniel Kay, Esq., deceased, amounting to ——— per annum; upon condition of schooling ten poor children, and that the gentlemen belonging to the Church will send their children to him for his further encouragement; and the same to continue until a schoolmaster, Episcopally ordained, shall be admitted, according to the intent of said will, which is purposed to be done as soon as may be.”

A Committee was also appointed to “speak with the gentlemen of the Church, and endeavor to procure as many scholars as they can for the schoolmaster that shall be admitted into the new School House.”

At the following meeting of the Vestry, January 7th, 1742, it was "agreed that the Church make application to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, to procure a schoolmaster, according to the tenor of the will of Nathaniel Kay, Esq., deceased, and send home a copy of the said will; and likewise what encouragement he may expect for such services; and likewise to request ye said Society to make some addition towards the support of said Schoolmaster."

April 22, 1742. It was "ordered that the money belonging to the poor, now in the hands of Capt. George Wanton, that he be desired to pay the same, and that it be appropriated towards repairing the dwelling house for the schoolmaster, and bond be given to the Church Wardens for the payment of the same, with interest."

June following, it was voted that rents received from the Kay estate, with rents not due, together with other sums, amounting in the aggregate to £239.5, be applied towards discharging the debt contracted in repairing the dwelling house belonging to the school.

In October, 1743, the Vestry voted to allow Mr. Bennett, the schoolmaster, the sum of £60 per annum, out of the revenue of the estate left for the support of the said school, in consideration of his schooling ten poor children, and the remainder of the income of the said estate was to be appropriated to the repairing of the buildings belonging to the estate, until the same were completely repaired.

From time to time repairs were called for, and there seems to have been, not only some difficulty in collecting rents, but a threat of a suit at law for back rents was sometimes employed to bring about a settlement.

In April, 1746, there was some misunderstanding between the Vestry and Mr. Bennett, the late schoolmaster, which was referred to arbitrators; each party giving bonds to abide by the decision of the person selected to heal the dispute. No particulars are given, nor is mention made of the time when Mr. Bennett left the School; but by the action of the Vestry it appears there was a change; for it was "voted that Mr. Nathaniel Coffin, the present schoolmaster, be allowed £60 per annum out

of the rent of the estate of the late Nathaniel Kay, Esq., deceased; and also the rent of the dwelling house in the school house yard from his coming to the school."

Mr. Coffin evidently grew in favor, for the following July the Vestry "voted that Mr. Nathaniel Coffin be paid at the rate of £100 per annum for teaching the charity boys at his school; the same to commence at this time."

It was also voted at the same meeting of the Vestry "that the Minister and Church Wardens further address the Society for Propagating the Gospel for a person capable of teaching school, and that they send over to them an exact state of the donation, with an account of the annual neat product of the same, and request of them that such schoolmaster be Episcopally ordained, and sent to act also as a catechist, and that they would be pledged to settle £20 or £30 sterling per annum on such person; that the yearly income of Mr. Kay's donation, with that settlement of theirs, may be proper encouragement for such a person to reside among us, and that Messrs. Samuel Wickham and Peter Bours be a committee to draw up a state of the circumstances and annual real product of Mr. Kay's donation."

The same Committee were also instructed to address a letter to Mr. John Thomlinson, Merchant, London, requesting him to use his interest with the Honorable Society for Propagating the Gospel, to procure a schoolmaster Episcopally ordained, with some annual allowance in addition to the generous donation of Nathaniel Kay, Esq., deceased, to assist the Minister of the Church, and to keep school.

The next reference to the subject was at a Vestry meeting, January, 1748, when it was "Voted, that the Rev. Mr. Honyman send for the Rev. Mr. Ogilvie, that he may be sent home to the Society for Propagating the Gospel, to receive orders as a Catechist and schoolmaster, to receive the donation of Nathaniel Kay, Esq., deceased."

The effort to secure the services of Mr. Ogilvie evidently failed; for the following month the Rev. Mr. Honyman was asked to send a messenger to Mr. Joseph Cleverly, of Braintry,

to make known to the latter that he had been chosen schoolmaster upon the foundation of Mr. Kay's will.

In April of the same year it was stated that Mr. Jeremiah Leaming had been recommended as a suitable person to fill the vacant office. It was therefore "unanimously voted that he be accepted and received pursuant to the last will and testament of Nathaniel Kay, Esq., deceased, and that he be forthwith sent to London, at the expense of the Church, to take holy orders."

The following September, 1748, the Rev. Jeremiah Leaming having produced his orders as deacon and priest, in a letter from the Rev. Dr. Bearcroft, Secretary to the Honorable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, signifying that the said Society did approve of the said Mr. Leaming for a schoolmaster, catechist and assistant to the Rev. Mr. Honyman, the Vestry voted to admit and receive the said Mr. Leaming in the capacity aforesaid."

At this time it was found that the tract of land in the south part of the town was not productive property; and at a meeting of the Vestry, March, 1749, it was decided to divide the land into equal lots, and rent them on a fifteen years' lease.

For the next few years no mention is made of the School or fund. The subject came up again at a Vestry meeting, February 13, 1758, when a Committee was appointed to write to Mr. Marmaduke Browne, to know if he would act as catechist in the Rev. Jeremiah Leaming's station.

The following month another Committee was appointed, to write to the Society to send over a schoolmaster, to supply the place of Mr. Leaming.

In April, 1759, it was "voted to repair the house left in trust by Nathaniel Kay, Esq., deceased, and to lease it to Mr. Robert Crooke for five years, for \$111 per annum, to be paid quarterly, the lessee to give security for the payment of the rent."

In April, 1760, a Committee was appointed to write to the Society for a schoolmaster. A similar Committee was appointed the following August, and again another in September. Still another Committee was appointed for this purpose, November 2, 1761, when it was "voted by the Congregation that Mr. Robert Veates have the use of the schoolhouse under our care, and

that he have from out of the donation from Nathaniel Kay, Esq., ten pounds, O. T., per quarter of a year, to be paid out of the rents of the Kay estate."

In 1764, a Committee was appointed "to get a draft of the lot occupied by Mr. John Bennett, and to lay it before the Congregation." This was the lot on the hill, which, with the house, had been rented to Bennett, April 24th, 1740, at an annual rental of £130. Subsequently, 1745, when the house was in great need of repair, it was put into the hands of William Mumford, and after it had been repaired by the said Mumford, it was rented to him for the above-named sum of £130 per annum.

At a meeting of the Congregation, May 7, 1764, another committee was appointed to write to the Society, to send out a schoolmaster.

The plot of the land is now in the archives of the Church, and was laid before the Congregation, April 15, 1765.

At this meeting of April 15, 1765, "the Church Wardens were instructed to provide a room for Markadore, formerly a slave of Nathaniel Kay, Esq., deceased, and by him freed, and to pay his rent for one year."

The Church probably continued to take care of him during the rest of his days; for at a Vestry meeting, April 1, 1771, it was "voted that the account exhibited to the Church, for attendance and medicine for negro Markadore, in his last illness, by Dr. Thomas Eyres, be paid by the Church Wardens."

In November, 1767, the Vestry was "authorized to hire £50 sterling, to pay Rev. Mr. Bisset's passage and his salary to September 1st; the Vestry to be bound for the principal and interest," which sum was hired the following month, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

There seems to have been some difficulty in collecting the rents due to the Church for the Kay property, and at a Vestry meeting, June 7, 1768, it was "voted that all those persons who are indebted to the estate of Mr. Kay be immediately sued for the same by the Church Wardens"; who were also instructed to hire \$100 to pay the salary of Rev. Mr. Bisset.

John Ernest Knochell was the organist of the Church, at a

salary of £30. He died in October, 1769, and the Vestry voted to pay his widow his salary as organist till the following Easter; and to allow her to remain in the house in the School House yard, rent free, during the same time. The following April she was warned out, and the Vestry voted to pay Rev. Mr. Bisset (the schoolmaster, whose name as such is here first mentioned) £8, sterling, per annum, for the hire of the house, which, in the opinion of the Congregation, he was entitled to. But Mr. Bisset claimed more, and wanted to be paid "at the same rate for two and a half years past." The Vestry did not agree to this, and it was referred to the Congregation; but it does not appear to have been brought up again.

The above shows that Rev. Mr. Bisset had been schoolmaster two and a half years prior to 1770.

In February, 1770, a letter was laid before the Congregation, from the Rev. Mr. Bisset, to the effect that if his salary was not raised by the addition of £100 per annum, and the house he occupied be put in immediate repair, he would accept of an invitation to become the assistant of the Rev. Dr. Canner, at the Chapel in Boston; whereupon it was "voted not to comply with the request of Rev. Mr. Bisset, and a Committee was appointed to write to the Rev. Arthur Browne, at Portsmouth, N. H., and inform him that the Rev. Mr. Bisset was about to leave the Church and school, and request his assistance in supplying the Church with a minister, until the return of his son, Rev. Marmaduke Browne, either by coming to Newport himself, or sending up Rev. Mr. Badger."

The Committee was also to "write to Rev. Dr. Miles Cooper, of King's College, in New York; and to Rev. Dr. Smith, Provost of the Academy in Philadelphia, and enclose a paragraph of Mr. Kay's will, respecting a schoolmaster and assistant, and requesting those gentlemen to make inquiry for a suitable person to go to England for orders, to supply Mr. Bisset's place."

At a meeting of the Congregation, in April, 1770, it was voted to put the house in the school house yard in tenantable order for the use of the Rev. Mr. Bisset, who was to keep it in repair.

At this time the Vestry and Congregation were divided in

their views, as to the best disposition to be made of the Kay property. It was voted by the Vestry, at a meeting held June 25, 1770, to sell the house belonging to the Church, part of the Kay estate, for the sum of \$3000, and the option to purchase it to be given to Mr. Brinley, then the tenant. This was not countenanced by the Congregation at a meeting held the following month, July 9th, when it was "voted that a vote passed by the Vestry at their last meeting, respecting the selling of the house Mr. Brinley lives in, be reconsidered, and that the said house, together with the house in the schoolhouse yard included, be leased to Mr. Francis Brinley for the term of seven years, at the rate of £62, sterling, per annum, and that he be obliged to pay \$100 in repairing the house he lives in, and that he keep the said estate always in good repair at his own charge, and that the said house be painted at the expense of the Church, as soon as oil and colors can be procured."

It would appear from the record of 1771 that Rev. Mr. Bisset still continued in charge of the school, notwithstanding the acceptance of his letter of resignation, recorded on page 105; for at a Vestry meeting April 8, a Committee of two was appointed to visit his school from time to time, as often as they judged necessary, in order to see that the number of charity boys was always complete, and with power to fill any vacancy.

At the same meeting it was decided that the expense of painting the Kay house should be defrayed out of any money due to the Church. A Committee was also appointed to draft a letter to the Society for Propagating the Gospel, calling for the selection of a suitable person as schoolmaster and assistant, should the Society decide to appoint Rev. Mr. Bisset Minister of the Church.

The October following a letter was addressed to Rev. Dr. Burton, Secretary of the Society, acquainting him that the Rev. Mr. Willard Wheeler had offered to accept the school, provided there should be a vacancy, and a request was made to the Society, if no suitable person had been selected, not to trouble themselves any further in the affair, as they would in that case accept Mr. Wheeler.

At this time the support of the Society for the Propagation

of the Gospel in Foreign Parts was wholly withdrawn from the Church. Rev. Mr. Bisset enjoyed the Kay donation till Easter, 1772, and on the 11th of the following May Rev. Mr. Wheeler was chosen assistant and schoolmaster, on the Kay foundation; his salary to date from the 1st of the previous April.

The school did not prosper under Mr. Wheeler, and in April, 1776, a Committee was appointed "to acquaint him that the Vestry and Congregation were greatly disappointed and dissatisfied with regard to the school, and as many difficulties arise from the unhappy situation of public affairs, in collecting the rents and taxes of the Church to support the officers, they would have no objection to Mr. Wheeler's being removed to another and more advantageous living."

From this time we hear nothing more of the school till 1790, when an effort was made to revive it. In the meantime, at almost every meeting of the Vestry and Congregation, some question was asked in regard to the management of the Kay property; and in April, 1785, an effort was made on the part of the Vestry to borrow of the congregation who were proprietors of pews, a sum of money to enable them, with the rents due to the Church, to discharge the interest of a bond due from the Church to the heirs of Peter Dorden, to be paid at a future day out of rents falling to the Church.

The April following a Committee was appointed to lease all the estates upon the best terms, for the year, collect the past year's rent and all the money due to the Church, and appropriate the same to paying the interest on the above-named bond. A similar vote was passed at the annual meeting, 1783.

In April, 1784, a proposition was made to the Vestry to exchange the seven acres of Kay land in the south part of the town, for an equal quantity of land adjoining the Kay estate on the hill; and subsequently a committee was appointed to make the exchange, acre for acre; also to endeavor to obtain a passage to the land thus acquired through the land belonging to the Jews, by making an exchange with them. With what result does not appear on the records.

March 27, 1785, a Committee was appointed to collect all the rents on account of the Kay estate, and pay the same to

William Vernon, in part of the bond due from the Church to the heirs of Peter Dorden, deceased; and the same Committee was instructed to lease out, on the best terms, all the said estate for a term not exceeding seven years, that ten poor children whose parents belong to the Church, might have their schooling paid out of the rents, and the remainder, after covering repairs, was to be appropriated towards the payment of the said bond.

The Committee reported that they had leased the Kay house, together with the lot of land had of George Scott, in exchange, to Dr. Barker, for six years from January 1, 1786, at the rate of two hundred silver milled dollars per annum; three years' rent to be paid down, in advance. This course met with the approval of the Vestry, and the committee was authorized to give a lease for eight years, and to ask Dr. Barker to advance as much money as would pay Mr. Gibbs what he had advanced for repairing the buildings, and the balance due to Mr. Bours, after having audited his accounts. (Mr. Bours had officiated as lay reader for five years, prior to the election of Rev. James Sayre, as Minister, in 1786, at an annual salary of £30. He had also the disbursing of some of the funds of the Church. At the close of his services, October 8, 1786, there was a balance due him of £147.16.0, lawful money, for which sum an obligation was given him, payable with interest.)

Dr. Barker declined to advance more money than the sum named, and the Committee were to ask a loan of him, which application was successful, and the sum of \$243.25 was hired, to pay the expenses incurred in repairing the Kay house.

In 1787 there was a repetition of the vote to collect the rents due on Church lots, or eject the tenants, and Rev. Mr. Sayre was requested to give notice that provision had been made for schooling ten poor boys, and that the names of the proper objects of this charity should be sent to the Vestry; but it does not appear from the records that anything grew out of the above effort.

In February, 1790, it was "Voted that provision be made for schooling ten poor children, agreeably to Mr. Kay's will, as soon as possible," and a Committee was appointed to seek for some person qualified as the will directs, to teach them. Rev. Mr.

Smith, the Rector, was asked to take charge of the school for the time being, and public notice was given that all who had children entitled to the benefit of the donation should send in their names before Easter.

In February, 1792, a Committee was appointed to view the schoolhouse lot, and the lot proposed for an exchange by Mr. Channing, and to report on the expediency thereof. The report, if made, does not appear on the records.

In March of the same year the Vestry agreed to lease to Mr. Tilley the land on which his ropewalk⁴⁷ stood, for seven years, or as many more years as he chose, at the rate of \$15 per year. At the same time the Kay house and one acre of land was leased to Benjamin Brenton, for one year, for \$90, payable in advance, and the remainder of the land to P. and B. Mumford, for \$50.

In June, 1795, a proposal was received from Richard Harrison, Esq., of New York, to take a lease of the Kay house and grounds for nine hundred and ninety-nine years, at an annual rental of \$300, Harrison at the same time making an offer of a gratuity of \$300, on the signing of the lease, to be devoted to re-shingling the roof of the Church. The offer was accepted, and subsequently the Committee reported that they had received the above-named \$300, and had "lodged the same in the Bank of Rhode Island."

In April, 1786, the subject of carrying out the provisions of the Kay will was again brought up; but as it appeared that some time might elapse before a suitable person could be found to take charge of the school, it was voted, that the Committee appointed for the purpose, collect all the rents as they become due, and put the same at interest upon the best terms, and that the principal with the interest thereon, until a schoolmaster entered upon his living, should be made use of (with such donations as might be obtained for the purpose) for the building of

⁴⁷ WHAT is now Kay street was the site of the Tilley ropewalk. During the excitement of the Dorr rebellion, it was burnt by some miscreant, and no attempt was made to replace it.

a school house on the lot of land where the former school house stood, or on some other lot of land deemed more commodiously situated for a school house. Some of these rents received from Mr. Harrison were in the hands of Mr. Bours, who was required to give his note for the same, for six months, with interest, payable at the bank, with a good endorser.

In February, 1799, the Committee reported that with the rents falling due September 25th, they would have sufficient funds to build a school house, and they were directed to erect a building for this purpose on the old site.

In March, 1810, a Committee was appointed to make inquiry for a suitable person to take charge of the school, at a salary of \$300 per annum, the amount of rent received from Mr. Harrison, which the Vestry pledge for this purpose.

The following August, Rev. Abraham Brunson, of Cheshire, Conn., took charge of the school. But in February, 1801, a new Committee was looking for another teacher, Mr. Brunson having signified his intention to resign his charge. His successor was Mr. Clement Merriam, who was appointed April 26th, 1802, at the same salary; but in August he notified the Vestry that he should retire from the school in six months from the previous July. A Committee was appointed to obtain a schoolmaster and Assistant Minister, and Mr. Merriam was engaged to fill the pulpit during the absence of the Rector, Rev. Mr. Dehon, and by a vote of the Vestry the sum of \$25 per month was allowed for the compensation of some suitable person, as usher, during the remainder of the term.

In December, 1802, Mr. John Reed, Preceptor in the Academy at Plainfield, was invited to take charge of the school immediately after the 25th of January, 1803; but evidently he did not accept, for in August of that year Mr. Dehon was added "to the Committee appointed to obtain a schoolmaster and Assistant Minister."

April 30, 1804. A Committee reported in favor of selling the land in the south part of the town, and Mr. William Hunter was requested to draft a petition to the General Assembly, in the name of the Rector, Wardens and Vestry, for power to sell said lots, and reinvest the proceeds, which petition was pre-

sented, but was not granted; and a Committee was thereupon appointed to see what ought to be done with the lots, to promote in the best manner the charitable design of the donor. They were also instructed to have the lots surveyed. The plot of these lots is now in the archives of the Church.

At a subsequent meeting a report of the value of these lots was made, but the report is not on record. By the action of the Vestry the computed value appears to have been \$1200, and it was deemed expedient to lease them on this basis for 999 years. In February, 1805, they were accordingly advertised to be sold by public auction, Monday, March 25th, unless previously disposed of at private sale. This vote was reconsidered, March 4th. Several of the lots were sold, and April 1st, 1805, it was voted to dispose of the remaining lots by auction.

On the following May 6th it was voted to invest the proceeds of these lots, with other money hired from the banks in town, in the purchase of ten acres of land belonging to Mr. Henry Bliss, at \$139 per acre.

At this time Rev. Mr. Ward having been offered the charge of the school, informed the Rector that he was under an engagement for the next five months, at the expiration of which time he would accept the call. The Vestry decided to keep the place open for him.

In November Mr. Ward's salary was fixed at \$350 per annum.

In June of the same year, 1805, a Committee was appointed to renew the petition to the General Assembly, for power to sell the Church lots in the south part of the town, which petition was granted, and all who had taken the long leases were allowed to exchange them for deeds in fee.

In September, 1805, the purchase of the Bliss lot, authorized the 6th of the previous May, was consummated; and it was voted that the rent of the Kay house, \$300, falling due at that time, should become a part of the purchase money.

June 2, 1806, Rev. Mr. Dehon was requested to assure Mr. Viets Griswold, who had opened the Church School House, that as soon as his school was established, the Vestry would afford him every countenance and encouragement in their power, and would appoint a Committee to superintend it. It does not

appear that any Committee of this kind was appointed; but December 7, 1807, the Rector and Wardens were appointed a Committee to make inquiry of Rev. Mr. Ward, respecting the state of the school, and make report at the next meeting of the Vestry.

The next reference to the school house is under date of May 1, 1809, when a Committee was appointed to wait on the Rev. Mr. Ward, and inquire of him whether Mr. Trevett had given him possession of the school house, and whether it was in as good repair as when he entered it.

In July, 1810, Rev. Mr. Ward was still attached to the Church and school; for it was voted at this time to hire the sum of \$200 to pay a balance due to Rev. Mr. Dehon and Rev. Mr. Ward.

The next mention made of the school is under date of November 5th, 1810, when a Committee was appointed to inquire into the state of the school house, then in the occupation of Mr. John Rodman, and report at the next meeting of the Vestry. The Committee was authorized to make any repairs on the building deemed necessary.

January 7, 1811, it was "Voted, that John Rodman continue in the Church school house, for the term of one year from January 11, 1811, on the same conditions he has heretofore had said school house, and that Stephen T. Northam be requested to desire Mr. Rodman to instruct the scholars under his care by Mr. Kay's donation, to teach them the catechism agreeably to the Episcopal mode, at least once a week, and that the children that are admitted in said school must produce to Mr. Rodman a certificate from the Rector, Wardens and one of the Vestry."

"Voted: that the Wardens be directed to pay the instalments, as they become due, for the three shares subscribed by F. Brinley, for the Corporation of Trinity Church, at the Rhode Island Union Bank in this town, agreeably to the regulations as directed by said bank, which instalments are to be paid from monies arising from the Kay foundation."

The property known as the Kay house had probably fallen into decay, for at a meeting of the Vestry, April 14, 1814, a

Committee was appointed to wait on Benjamin Hazard, Esq., and obtain his legal opinion relative to a lease given by this Church to Richard Harrison, Esq., of New York; and whether Mr. Harrison was not bound to keep the estate in as good repair as when he received it. The Committee was to report at the next meeting, but no mention is made of such report.

At a meeting of the Vestry, March 20, 1815, the clerk was requested to copy into the records the following paper:

“A Copy of Mr. Kay’s Bequest.

“‘Item, I give and bequeath my dwelling house and coach house to my wife during her natural life, after which I give and bequeath both, with my lots of land in Rhode Island, and four hundred pounds in currency of New England, to build a schoolhouse, to the Minister of the Church of England (Mr. Honyman) and the Church Wardens and Vestry, and to the intent and purpose, benefit and use of the school, to teach ten poor boys their Grammar and Mathematics gratis, and to appoint a master at all times, as occasion or vacancy may happen, who shall be Episcopally ordained and assist the Minister Episcopal of the town of Newport in some proper office, as they shall think most useful.’

“Newport ss. The above is a true copy as appears on record in the Town Council’s Book, No. 8, page 199.

“Newport, Feb’y 26, 1770.

WILLIAM CODDINGTON,
Council Clerk.”

In July, 1816, a Committee was appointed to attend quarterly the examination of Mr. Rodman’s school, and see that the charity boys were taught as prescribed by the will of the late Nathaniel Kay, Esq., deceased, and to report quarterly to the Vestry the progress of the children in their learning. These reports were probably verbal, for they do not appear on the records.

January 14, 1817. “Voted: that the Treasurer be, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered to dispose of the three shares in the [Rhode Island] Union Bank, owned by this Corporation, for the most they will command, and apply the proceeds, first, to reduce the note of \$400 to \$300, and, secondly,

the surplus to the discharge of those debts that now exist against the Church."

March 3, 1817. A Committee was appointed to obtain the opinion of Mr. Searle, as to the responsibility of Harrison for the destruction of the stable, out-houses and fences, that have occurred.

On the 6th of the same month the Committee reported, but that report is not upon record. The nature of it, however, may be gathered from the action of the Vestry; for it was "voted: that it is expedient to prosecute Harrison for destruction and waste of the Kay Estate." A Committee was appointed to obtain legal redress, and the Senior Warden was authorized to supply the necessary funds to carry on the suit.

May 5th. The Committee was authorized to employ such counsel, in or out of the State, as they deemed best.

June 2, 1817. The Committee were authorized to employ as counsel Mr. Wells of New York; to ascertain if a compromise could be made with Richard Harrison, for damages to the Kay estate, and if no settlement can be made they are to prosecute.

July 8, 1817. A vote of thanks was presented by the Vestry to Mr. Wells, "for his distinguished attention, and for his law informative, gratuitously given to the Committee."

January 6, 1818. The Vestry "voted that Mr. Webb take the school house upon the same terms as Mr. Rodman, to wit: to teach ten poor children gratis, reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, the Church Catechism, and to instruct them in the doctrines and discipline of the Episcopal Church, if they are desirous to be taught them."

October 12, 1818. A Committee was appointed to carry into effect the vote of March 6, 1817, respecting the Kay Estate with Mr. Harrison; and May 11th, 1819, it was voted to prosecute Mr. Harrison for waste of the Kay Estate.

July 12, 1819. The Committee reported that Mr. Harrison proposed to pay \$2000 on account of the Kay estate—\$1000 in one year, and \$1000 in two years, and renew the lease, so that the rent should be in proportion to the old lease; which proposition was accepted, and a committee was appointed to make such arrangement with Harrison; but there seems to have been

some hitch, for in August, 1820, more than a year later, the old Committee was discharged, and a new one was instructed to made the arrangement with Harrison immediately.

December 8, 1820. The Committee presented an indenture that was approved, and the Treasurer was ordered to execute it. By this instrument the Kay estate was leased to Harrison for 999 years, at a yearly rental of \$300, based on a valuation of \$5000, at 6 per cent. Harrison had the right to pay down this sum of \$5000, in instalments, giving three months' notice of such intention; but no payment was to be for a less sum than \$1000; and when such payments were made there would be a corresponding reduction in the amount of rent or interest money he would be called upon to pay. If the whole amount was actually paid in, the Church was to give a release from all claims for damage or waste of property.

October 4, 1821. The Senior Warden acknowledged the receipt of \$1000, from Richard Harrison, which sum, with an additional sum of \$100, rental, was applied to the payment of two notes at the Rhode Island Union Bank, and N. E. Commercial Bank.

October 6, 1824. Application was made in behalf of the Town, for the use of the school house for a public school; which request was granted, on condition that the Town paid a proper rent for the use of the building.

March 25, 1822. The "Bliss lot," so called, bought with money, part proceeds of sale of Kay land in the south part of the town, and part hired for the purpose, was sold to Arnold Wilbour for \$1000, and on the 3d of April it was "Voted: that so much of the money received for the Bliss lot as may be, sufficient to pay the note due at the Rhode Island Union Bank from the Corporation, be appropriated to that use; and that the residue be funded by the Senior Warden, for the use of the Poor Fund, in payment for the amount loaned from that fund."

The note paid, as appears by the books of the bank, amounted to \$435.60.

June 1, 1825. John Rodman was allowed the use of the school house on the same terms on which he had previously had it; and in December, 1826, Mr. Brown was allowed to have it on the same terms.

In May, 1828, a communication was received from Richard Harrison, in which he refuses to pay any taxes assessed on the Kay estate. This was referred to a Committee, and the Committee reported in June, that no State law had been passed taxing Church property.

March 3, 1830. A Committee was appointed to look into the affairs of Mr. Harrison, then deceased; and they were also instructed to ascertain if the heirs or administrators had made any arrangement to continue the yearly rental of \$180.

April 15, 1830. A meeting was called to consider what could be done in regard to a claim against the estate of Mr. Harrison, deceased. At that meeting it was stated that Mr. [William] Hunter was of the opinion that the claim was good; but no steps were to be taken to test it, till the Committee could hear from their counsel in New York, Mr. Slanson.

July 5, 1830. A letter was received from W. H. Harrison, in behalf of the executors on the estate of Richard Harrison, deceased, offering to pay down the sum of \$1200, and to surrender the lease of the Kay property, if the Church would give a full release of all claims—the surrender to be subject to agreement with the occupant of the house at that time—which proposition was accepted and a Committee was appointed to carry it into effect.

September 1, 1830. The Committee reported that they had received the sum of \$1200, above referred to, with a surrender of the lease, and that they had given a full release to the estate of Richard Harrison.

The Committee were instructed to pay over to the Treasurer the money in their hands.

October 5, 1830. Nathaniel Amory made application for the Kay estate, and the Vestry offered to sell it to him, at the rate of \$300 per acre.

July 12, 1832. A Committee was appointed to confer with any applicant for the Kay Estate, and report to the Vestry; and the following January the Committee was authorized to lease the estate for \$3500.

April 3, 1833. The estate was leased for the above-named

sum to George Engs, he giving his note, payable in six months with interest, endorsed by Edward W. Lawton.

April 13, 1835. The Vestry were informed that George Engs wished to pay off his note, and the Treasurer was authorized to receive the money, and pay over to the Senior Warden "so much as will pay off the debts against the Church, and invest the balance."

Mr. Engs paid, April 14, \$2300.65, and May 8th, \$235, making in all \$2635.65. The same day the Senior Warden paid a note at Rhode Island Union Bank,	\$1530.00
One at Bank of Rhode Island,	412.73
One at the Merchants Bank,	250.00
And to Rev. Mr. Wheaton,	200.00

\$2392.73

Leaving in the hands of the Warden \$242.92.

May 5th. The Warden was instructed to pay out of the funds of the Church, for the iron railing to the Frank street steps, and the balance due for the blinds, in compliance with a vote of the Corporation.

July 5, 1835, there was no money in the Treasury and the Senior Warden was directed to hire a sufficient sum to pay the salaries then due.

May 8, 1838. The Treasurer was instructed to call on George Engs for the interest, and \$50 of the principal of his note.

September 3, 1839. The Committee appointed to sell the Sexton's house and the parsonage, reported a sale, and it was voted that the Treasurer collect from George Engs the money due from him to the Church, and with this amount, and the proceeds of the sale of the parsonage (except money secured on the latter by mortgage) he was to pay the debts of the Corporation.

Money received at this time from George Engs,	\$739.00
Part payment on parsonage,	475.00

\$1214.00

September 6, 1839. Paid Savings Bank, \$254.16

September 13, paid R. I. Union Bank,	900.00	\$1154.16
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Balance in the hands of the Treasurer,		\$59.84
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At a meeting of the Vestry, April 17, 1840, a schedule, giving the items of property held by the Church, was presented by a Committee appointed for that purpose; by which it appears that the Corporation was indebted to the Poor Fund to the amount of \$800.

August 5, 1840. It was voted to transfer (as had been recommended by the Corporation) to the Poor Fund, eight shares in R. I. Union Bank, standing in the name of the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church.

April 14, 1849. It was "Voted: that immediate measures be taken to restore the Kay Fund; that the Church Fund be considered a portion of the Kay Fund, and that eight shares of the stock of the R. I. Union Bank, transferred in 1840 to the Poor Fund, be restored to the Kay Fund; and that the whole be placed in the hands of the Wardens and Vestry, as intended by the will of Nathaniel Kay."

"Voted: that the Vestry be requested to collect all the documents relating to the Kay Fund, and to the leases of lots of land, and that they be recorded in a book devoted to that purpose."⁴⁸

November 1, 1842. At the request of the Rector, Rev. Francis Vinton, and others, permission was granted by the Vestry to have the school house again opened as a day school, to be under the direction of the Rector.

June 2, 1845. By a vote of the Vestry, the bell in the school house was "given to the Church in Middletown" [Church of the Holy Cross]; at the same time permission was given to alter the school house, to adapt it to the wants of the Sunday School; the Sunday School to be at the cost of said change.

April 8, 1847. The Vestry declined granting further permission to use the school house for a day school, and various applications for it, for a singing school, in subsequent years, were declined.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the school established

⁴⁸ NO SUCH COLLECTION was made, and no further attention was paid to the gathering of facts connected with the Kay Fund till 1867, when a report was made, which will be found in place.

on the Kay foundation was never in a healthy condition. It was opened by a layman, and the majority of those who have been at its head were not ordained Clergymen—in some instances, not even Churchmen. The efforts to carry out the bequest were always spasmodic, and during the 136 years that have elapsed since the date of the bequest, the whole number of clergymen at its head does not exceed six—one for a period of about four years, and the others for a less term. Two of them for less than a year.

The building originally used for a school house was destroyed after 1776, probably during the war, and the new building was erected in 1800, and paid for out of rents from Kay property and donations.

It is further shown by this report, that the proceeds from Kay property, realized from leases and actual sales, were long since expended; not a dollar of the fund, or of any money realized from sales of the property, was left in the Treasury in 1840. It had all been absorbed, and with it \$800 of the Poor Fund. In that year the Vestry made good the Poor Fund, by taking bank stock standing in the name of the Church and transferring it to the Poor Fund. But at the meeting of the Corporation, April 14, 1849, the sum of \$800 was again taken from the Poor Fund and made the basis of what was then called the Kay Fund. And this is the way in which the finances of the Church have been managed. The amount that then stood to the credit of the Kay Fund was no more a part of the Kay Fund, or of any proceeds from the Kay bequest, than any other property in the hands of the Corporation; and even if it had been so, the Vestry, in 1868, would have felt justified, in the opinion of your Committee, in appropriating it to the erection of a building for the instruction of the youths of the Church. Regretting the mistakes of their predecessors, and recognizing what was due to the memory of Mr. Kay, they voted to build a substantial structure, identified with his name, and set apart—not for the instruction of ten poor boys, but to improve and benefit hundreds of children, who are now weekly taught under its roof their catechism, and how to become good Churchmen and worthy members of society; thus carrying out the wishes of Mr. Kay in the

spirit, if not to the letter, of his bequest, and adding greatly to the influence, usefulness and spiritual growth of the Church.

The following was added to the report by request of the Vestry.

At the annual meeting of the Corporation, Easter Monday, April 22, 1867, the importance of having enlarged accommodations for the Parish Sunday School, was brought up, and the whole subject was referred to the Vestry. At a meeting of the Vestry, July 26, a Committee was appointed to report on the expediency of building a new school house, which report was read at a meeting held on the 19th of the following August, when it was shown that the old site was not large enough for the erection of a suitable building, and the Committee suggested the purchase of the lot on the corner of Church and High streets, the property of the Moravian Society; which report was favorably received, and the Committee were instructed to purchase the said lot, and to procure suitable plans for building.

The Committee applied to George C. Mason, architect, who offered to give his professional services to the Church, and was accordingly instructed to prepare plans for a stone building; the Vestry having voted to use that material for building.

At a meeting of the Vestry, October 11, 1867, it was voted to call the new structure the Kay School House, and at the same meeting a building committee, consisting of the Rector, Edward King and J. H. Cozzens, was appointed.

February 24, 1868, the Building Committee reported that the expense of a stone structure was not warranted by the funds at their disposal, and it was accordingly voted to build of wood, and new plans were called for. The Committee was also instructed to sell the building then on the Moravian lot, to be removed at once.

It having been shown at a meeting of the Vestry, April 8th, that a brick building could be put up at a reasonable outlay, it was voted to build of brick, and the architect was instructed to prepare new plans, and for a larger edifice than was at first proposed; Benjamin Finch, Esq., having given a strip of land adjoining the Moravian lot on the North, to allow of extending the building in that direction.

May 27, 1868, the Building Committee were instructed to proceed with the plans, which met with the approval of the Vestry; and at a subsequent meeting, June 30, the Wardens were authorized to sell the old school house and lot, for \$2000, possession to be given on the completion of the Kay School House; which property the Committee sold to the Shiloh Baptist Society.

March 31, 1869, the Vestry voted to have placed in Kay Chapel an appropriate tablet, to the memory of the late Nathaniel Kay, whose revered name had been given to the edifice.

At the Annual Meeting, April 18, 1870, the Treasurer reported the whole outlay of the Committee, including the purchase of the land, the furniture, grading, insurance, &c., was \$20,410.21; all of which had been paid, with the exception of a balance of \$3591.71.

The structure was built of the best materials, put together in the most thorough and workmanlike manner. The exterior walls are of Danvers pressed brick, with brown stone trimmings, backed up with good, hard burnt brick. There is a deep cellar under the whole structure, with a concrete bottom, and all the water from the roof is taken to the well on the premises. The floor beams are of chestnut, the floor is double, the upper floor being of yellow pine; the roof is sustained by heavy timber tresses, thoroughly bolted together, and the covering is of best Maine slates. There is a good furnace in the cellar, the windows are of stained glass, the seats and other furniture are substantially made and the chancel and aisles are neatly carpeted.

GEORGE C. MASON,

JAMES BIRCKHEAD,

of the Committee.

[MINORITY REPORT.]

To the Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport:

The subscriber, one of the Committee to collect information in relation to the Kay Fund, and its administration, begs leave to make the following report:

The object of the Committee's appointment was not merely to ascertain historical facts, but practical facts, as the basis for

the future action of the Vestry: such as, Was there a Trust? What is the nature of the Trust? Does the Trust exist now? and do any obligations rest upon the Vestry at the present time, in regard to its administration?

To ascertain all the facts in relation to the Kay Fund, the Church Records, from 1734 to 1850, have been thoroughly examined. Every paragraph found on the Church books, relating to the administration of this trust by the Vestry and Congregation, has been either copied in full, or the exact meaning given in an abridged form. As the will of Mr. Kay was not entered upon the Church Records at the time of Mr. Kay's death, in 1734, and as the Probate Record of his will was in a dilapidated condition, the Committee have been so fortunate as to obtain from Rev. Henry B. Sherman extracts from Mr. Kay's will, found in Volume 9 of the Proceedings of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts; which leave no doubt of the intention of Mr. Kay, and of the fact of a special and perpetual Trust, committed by him into the hands of the Vestry of Trinity Church.

From an examination of this transcript from the Church Records, and from those of the aforesaid Society, in the opinion of the subscriber the following conclusion may justly be drawn:

1st. That Nathaniel Kay, Esq., by his will, proved before the Probate Court of Newport, and recorded in their books, April 25, 1734, which record is corroborated by extracts from the books of the Society of Foreign Parts, Volume 9, page 54, bequeathed and devised to the Minister, the Church Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, certain property in Rhode Island, and £400 in currency, to build a School House, and to the intent and purpose, and benefit, and use of the school, to teach ten poor boys their grammar and mathematics, gratis; and to appoint a master at all times, as occasion or vacancy may happen, who shall be Episcopally ordained, and assist the Minister Episcopal of the town of Newport, in some proper office.

2d. That from the time of said bequest, the Minister, Vestry and Corporation of Trinity Church, continued down to a late period, to manage said property, so devised, and to apply the income derived from it to carry out the design and purpose of

said bequest, so far as the funds realized, or the circumstances of the Church condition, allowed.

3d. That there has remained in the hands of the Vestry and Corporation of Trinity Church, since or after the year 1830, a sum of money derived from the estate of Nathaniel Kay, so devised, exceeding the amount of \$3000; no part of which sum, or the interest thereon, has been applied by said Vestry and Corporation to the use of the school.

4th. That the intention of Trinity Church Corporation to recognize the bequest of Mr. Kay, and to devote the proceeds realized from it, to carry out the design of the testator when practicable, is manifested by their vote of April 14, 1849, restoring and establishing the Kay Fund as a separate fund, and appropriating certain property to constitute a portion of it.

In view, then, of what there appears to be clearly in evidence, the subscriber is of the opinion, and earnestly recommends, that the Vestry and Corporation should maintain the fund, as a separate fund, to accumulate, until it shall amount to a sum sufficient, by the application of its annual income, to realize the purpose of the testator in a practical and appropriate way.

To assure such accumulation, the annual interest should be strictly applied to the increase, whether the principal of the fund be borrowed by the Vestry and Corporation, or loaned to other parties.

Should it appear that the school house and lot on which it stands was a part of the Kay property, or obtained by the expenditure of its funds, as the subscriber believes, the proceeds of the sale thereof, recently made, viz., two thousand dollars, should be applied to, and constitute a part of, the Kay Fund.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

DAVID KING.

The following resolution was offered by S. Engs:

It having been shown by the report just read that not only the revenue derived from the Kay Fund has been expended, but that the whole of the original bequest has been absorbed to meet the demands on the Treasury in times past, and

Whereas, this Vestry, in a commendable spirit, has erected and set apart, for the instruction of hundreds of children, a substantial brick structure, called Kay School House, to commemorate the liberality of the late Nathaniel Kay, thus carrying out, so far as they can now be carried out, the wishes of the testator, for the moral and religious improvements of youths, and

Whereas, the fund, now known as the Kay Fund, was so constituted in 1849, out of the funds of this Parish; and, whereas, the fence around the Church grounds, where repose the remains of Mr. Kay and of many others, who in their day and generation were devoted to the best interests of the Church, is now rapidly falling to decay, and has already become unseemly, therefore:

Voted: that the Treasurer be, and he is hereby, instructed to set apart, as "The Church Yard Fence Fund," the accrued interest on the so-called Kay Fund, and that from and after this date the interest that may accrue on the said Kay Fund be added to the Fence Fund, till a sufficient sum be raised for the erection of a substantial and appropriate fence around the Church grounds.

Voted: that a Committee of three, to be named by the Chair, be appointed to solicit subscriptions to the Fund, and that the Rector be requested to take up a collection for this object during the approaching summer.

Voted: that the Fence Fund be deposited in the Savings Bank.

Shall the resolution be accepted?

On motion of William E. Dennis the House was called, and with the following result:

Ayes: George C. Mason, Samuel Engs, Marshall C. Slocum, Benjamin Finch, William Cornell, John H. Cozzens, William E. Dennis, Thomas R. Hunter, Charles Hunter; 9.

Noes: Job T. Langley, William G. Seabury; 2.

The Chairman appointed the following committee: Thomas R. Hunter, Charles Hunter, George W. Gibbs, George C. Mason.

Voted: that the communication of Dr. King be placed on file.

The Wardens were authorized to paint the Church, and to place a flag-stone walk in front of Kay Chapel.

July 6, 1870. Voted: that the plan and estimate for an iron fence around the yard of the Church, be referred to the committee appointed to solicit subscriptions, with power to carry them out as soon as they think that the subscriptions and the funds appropriated by the Church will warrant such a step.

August 31, 1870. Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to sell pews Nos. 6 and 7 in the north gallery, at the present valuation, subject to the following conditions,—that said pews shall not be rented, nor shall they be sold at any time without first giving the option to the Church to take them at their present valuation. The option to purchase to be given to the present occupants before offering them to other parties.

September 6, 1870. Voted: that Benjamin Finch be a committee to treat with the agent of George Crandall for his interest in the Crandall estate, with full power.

Voted: that Benjamin Finch be authorized to confer with the Messrs. Lawrence, and guarantee that on the receipt of their contribution of \$500, the Vestry will immediately have the proposed iron fence placed on Spring and Church streets.

September 16, 1870. Voted: that the plan and proposition of the Composite Iron Works, to furnish the iron fence, gates, &c., for the sum of \$1000, be accepted; and the Wardens were instructed to have the fence set upon granite blocks.

January 4, 1871. The Committee on Iron Fence reported as follows: that they had had the fence put up, as ordered by the Vestry, excepting the granite base, which was impracticable.

Contract for fence,	\$1000.00
Freight and carting,	33.73
John Moffatt, granite work,	292.50
B. M. Anthony, gravel,	52.00
George Popple, labor,	225.87
Irish & Wilson,	660.51
McAdam & Openshaw,	9.61
	<hr/>
	\$2274.22

(Original estimate for fence, \$1860.00.)

Actual cost,	\$1870.00
New sidewalk,	394.60
	\$2264.60

April 10, 1871. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 17 corporators present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The following officers were elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Samuel Engs, *Junior Warden*.

Marshall C. Slocum, Benjamin Finch, Job T. Langley, William Cornell, John H. Cozzens, William G. Seabury, William E. Dennis, Charles Hunter, George W. Gibbs, Thomas R. Hunter, Samuel W. Francis,^{48½} *Vestrymen*.

^{48½} DR. SAMUEL W. FRANCIS was the fourth son of the late John W. Francis, of New York. He was born in New York, December 26, 1835, graduated at Columbia College in 1857, and on completing his medical course at the New York Medical College, in 1860, entered upon the practice of his profession in that city. From there he removed to Newport, where he continued to practice up to the time of his last illness. He died March 25, 1886.

Dr. Francis was well read in his profession. He was a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, a member of the Victoria Institute of Great Britain, and Vice President of the Newport Medical Society. He was not only skilled as a physician, but had also a mechanical turn. The credit of being the inventor of the type-writer has been properly given to him, and many labor-saving devices now in common use, owe their origin to his inventive genius. Fond of Natural History, he was the founder of the Natural History Society of Newport. He published a number of works,

Job T. Langley, *Secretary*.

William Cornell, *Treasurer*.

George C. Mason, Samuel Engs, J. H. Cozzens, Marshall C. Slocum, *Delegates to State Convention*.

The following from the Treasurer was read:

The Treasurer respectfully reports, that the debt of the Corporation remains the same as at Easter last, excepting \$591.71, returned to the Treasurer of the School House Committee, which had been overpaid by him to the Treasurer of the Corporation. If our appropriations during the ensuing year do not exceed the following estimate, a continuation of the same tax will reduce the debt to about \$400.

Estimated expenses,	\$9779
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Income, with cash on hand,	9369
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Voted: that Pew No. 18, on the lower floor, be presented to Mrs. Dr. King and Miss Ann Wheaton, from the Corporation.

April 13, 1871. Voted: that on and after this date no bill or bills shall be paid or received by this Vestry, unless accompanied by the original order in writing and endorsed as correct by the person or persons who gave the order.

Voted: that all such endorsements shall be written in ink, and to be made previous to the meeting at which said bills are presented.

The following letter was received and ordered to be recorded:

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: We accept with thanks the pew in Trinity Church under the monument erected to our beloved Father. We shall hold and value it as a mark of respect and affection

and he might have been successful in the field of letters had he been disposed to enter it. Mrs. Francis, whose maiden name was Harriet H. McAllister, daughter of the late Judge McAllister, died before him.

for his memory, from a people whom he loved well, and among whom he spent the best days of his holy and useful life.

With respect, gentlemen,

Truly yours,

SARAH G. KING,

ANN WHEATON.

Newport, May 30, 1871.

Voted: that the Senior Warden have a plat of the Church pews made, with the owner's name to each pew, and have the same properly framed and placed in the belfry of the Church.

December 1, 1871. Voted: that the Junior Warden address a letter to non-resident pew owners, advising them that on and after this date, unless otherwise instructed, the Vestry will take charge of their pews during their absence, and will credit to tax account any sums received for sittings in said pews.

CHAPTER XII.

1872-1876.

April 1, 1872. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 15 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

No change was made in the election of officers.

The following was received from the Treasurer:

Easter Monday, 1872.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

The Treasurer respectfully reports that he has paid within the past year the note for \$1500, dated November 26, 1870, reducing the debt of the Corporation to \$1000, hired March 10, 1868, which can be paid within the ensuing year; and if our expenses do not much exceed the following estimate; we can at the same time reduce our taxes 3 per cent.

WILLIAM CORNELL, Treasurer.

The estimate covered an expenditure of \$7236.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation.

Voted: that the Rector's salary be at the rate of \$3500 per year, from March 11th.

Voted: that \$900 be appropriated for music.

October 2, 1872. The death of Rev. Francis Vinton, D. D., having been announced to the Vestry, the following vote was passed.

Voted: The Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I., deeply sensible of the loss sustained by the Church at large in the death of Francis Vinton, D. D., desire hereby to express their deep regret thereat, recalling with grateful remembrance Dr. Vinton's active efforts for the welfare of this Parish while Rector thereof.

That the Wardens and Vestry attend the funeral services as a body.

That the Vestry respectfully tender to Dr. Vinton's widow and family their sincere sympathy in the affliction with which it has pleased Almighty God to visit them.

That this expression of sympathy be entered on the records of this Vestry, and that a copy of it be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

J. G. Spingler, sexton, tendered his resignation, which resignation was referred to a committee; Messrs. Finch and Cozzens.

The following was read and received:

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: The Marquis de Noailles authorizes me to apply to you for permission, at his expense, to place a new stone over the grave of Admiral de Ternay, and to remove the present monumental stone from its temporary shelter to some place inside the Church, to be selected by Dr. White, Dr. King and Mr. Brooks, subject to the approval of the Vestry.

I remain very respectfully,

Your ob't servant,

SIDNEY EVERETT.

Newport, Sept. 30, 1872.

Voted: that permission be granted, the consent of the pew owners, over whose pews the Committee propose placing the monument, being first obtained, subject to the approval of the Vestry.

October 22, 1872. The following letter was read and received:

Brooklyn Heights,
27 Grace Court, Oct. 8, 1872.

To the Vestry of Trinity Church, Job. T. Langley, Esq., Sec'y,
and others;

Gentlemen: I have received the resolution passed by the Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport, respecting the decease of my dear Father, and in behalf of my mother, brothers and sisters must thank you for the kind sympathy conveyed to them. Coming from those friends at Newport who remember the early ministrations of my father, and from "Old Trinity," endeared by many recollections to us all, it is doubly precious at this season.

We desire to convey to the Vestry our thanks for their kind attendance as pall bearers at the funeral ceremony, and also to the members of the Choir, who gratuitously gave their services on that occasion.

With the respect of the members of our family, believe me, Gentlemen, with the highest consideration and respect,

Respectfully yours,
FRANCIS VINTON.

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: The Committee on the De Ternay monument request your permission to remove the monument from its present position, and to place it in the vestibule of the Church; likewise to make such renovation of it as in their opinion may seem proper.

Very respectfully,
Your ob't servant,
For the committee,
SIDNEY BROOKS.

Newport, Oct. 21, 1872.

Voted: that the request of the committee be granted.

April 14, 1873. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 17 corporators being present. George C. Mason chosen chairman.

The officers of the Church were re-elected without change.

The Treasurer's estimate of expenses for the ensuing year was \$6000, and a tax of 15 per cent. was voted.

Voted: that the Rector's salary be at the rate of \$3500 per annum.

J. G. Spingler was elected Sexton, at a salary of \$500.

Mr. Horace Hill, Organist, declined a re-election.

Voted: that the sum of \$100 be presented to Mr. Hill, as a testimonial of the respect and esteem of the Corporation, and that the Senior Warden present him the thanks of the Corporation for his past services.

Voted: that Aug. Ulman be elected organist, at a salary of \$500.

Voted: that \$1000 be appropriated for music, and after paying the salary of organist and hired singers, the balance be subject to the order of the Rector, for choir purposes.

September 18, 1873. Voted: that the Wardens and Treasurer be a committee to purchase the undivided half of the Crandall lot.

December 8, 1873. Voted: that the Senior Warden be authorized to have the ceiling of the Church painted according to his judgment, to be completed by Easter.

Voted: that the Chairman, Senior Warden and Dr. S. W. Francis, be a committee to offer proper resolutions in relation to the death of our late associate, Charles Hunter, and report at an adjourned meeting.

December 9, 1873. Adjourned meeting of the Vestry, at which the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved: Whereas in the Providence of God, our late associate, Captain Charles Hunter, was taken suddenly from us in the awful catastrophe, the sinking of the *Ville de Havre*, with

his wife and one daughter—all members of this Church—we bow in meek submission to the will of Him who holdeth the waters in His hand, and who in His wisdom has seen fit to bring distress upon us.

For many years Captain Hunter served as a Vestryman of this Church, to which he was strongly attached, and entered warmly into all discussions connected with its welfare; never severing from what he believed to be right in its government, or deemed best for its interest; Therefore

Resolved: that we deeply sympathize with the surviving members of his family, and that the Secretary be instructed to furnish them with a copy of this resolution.

Newport, R. I., December 10, 1873.

To Mrs. Thomas Dunn and Misses Hunter:

At a meeting of the Vestry of Trinity Church, on the evening of the 7th inst., the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted, and in accordance with the instruction of the Vestry, I herewith place a copy of them in your hands. Words are inadequate to express our sense of the loss we have sustained, but all hearts are alive to the sorrow of those who are suddenly called to mourn the loss of Father, Mother and Sister by this terrible disaster.

Very respectfully,

JOB T. LANGLEY, Sec'y.

Explanatory note entered by the Secretary:

The *Ville de Havre* was a French steamer of the largest class, built of iron and running between New York and Havre. At 2 a. m. on the 23d of November, A. D. 1873, when in mid-ocean, she was run into by an English ship, the *Lock Earn* of about 1200 tons, also built of iron, and was so badly shattered that in twelve minutes she went down, carrying with her the greater part of her passengers and crew. There were 306 souls

on board, and of these 85 were saved, 25 being passengers, and the remaining 60 were of the officers and crew.

March 31, 1874. The Senior Warden reported that the painting of the ceiling and woodwork of the Church had been done, at an expense of about \$1500.

Voted: that the unanimous thanks of the Vestry be tendered Mr. Mason, for the thorough and tasteful manner in which he had decorated Trinity Church, and that they fully endorse all that he has done.

April 6, 1874. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 15 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The Treasurer made report:

The tax of 15 per cent. is just sufficient for our ordinary expenses; but during the past year our extraordinary expenditures, including the purchase of the Crandall lot, amount to about \$3000, which takes from the Treasury the balance which we should have at Easter, and leaves us in debt \$660. To restore the treasury to its former good condition will require an extra tax of 5 per cent.

The sum of \$265, from Sunday offerings during the year, have been added to the sinking fund for the school house debt; making the fund at the present time \$525.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation.

The officers of the Church were all re-elected.

The Fire Department of the City having asked permission to use the bell of the Church at alarms of fire, such permit was granted, provided the key of the belfry be under the control of some responsible officer of the City.

May 4, 1874. The Senior Warden reported he had on hand 200 yards of cotton cloth, used to cover the pews while the Church was being painted, and recommended that it be given

to the Dorcas Society, which met with the approval of the Vestry.

October 8, 1874. The Senior Warden tendered to the Vestry an attested "Copy of the will of Mr. Kay."

Voted: that it be accepted, and the thanks of the Vestry be tendered Mr. Mason for the same.

Voted: that said copy of the will be placed in the hands of the Treasurer, and he be requested to allow no one to have it.

The Treasurer presented a certified copy, abstract from will of Martha Littlefield, deceased, bequeathing to the Church the sum of two thousand dollars.

Voted: that the bequest of Mrs. Littlefield be accepted, and the copy of the will be recorded; and that the Treasurer be requested to deposit the same [the sum of \$2000] in the Savings Bank of Newport, under the title of "The Littlefield Fund."

[Abstract from will of Martha Littlefield, deceased.]

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, in Newport, I give and bequeath pew number twenty-seven (27) south aisle of said Church, for the permanent use of said Corporation, and the sum of two thousand dollars, to be by them safely invested as a permanent fund, the income of which shall be by them applied, from time to time, or so much thereof as shall be necessary for that purpose, to the keeping of Trinity Church Yard, and the monuments therein, clean and in order; commending to the especial attention of said trustees the monuments erected for the Brinleys, Malbones, Littlefields, Sands, and the monument erected for Collector Kay and the renewal of the inscription thereon; upon the side of which monument is also an inscription, showing that a child of Bishop Berkeley is there buried; and the excess of the income of said fund, if any there be, after doing what I require herein, shall be invested and be permitted to accumulate. And if at any time hereafter the Corporation of said Church shall decide to erect a stone church edifice, said trustees may apply any portion of said permanent fund, with the

accumulated interest thereon, not needed for keeping in repair the monuments and yard aforesaid, in aid of the erection of such Church edifice.

The above is a true abstract from the will of Mrs. Martha Littlefield, late of Newport, deceased, which will was proved by the Probate Court of Newport, June 24, 1874, and of record in Probate Record, No. 28, pages 643 and 644.

Attest:

BENJAMIN B. HOWLAND,
Probate Clerk.

Note by the Secretary. The pew No. 27, bequeathed to Trinity Church in the above copy of will, had been deeded several years ago, by Mrs. Littlefield to Harry Ingersol.

December 8, 1874. Voted: that the old carpets in the attic of the Church be placed at the disposal of the Dorcas Society.

March 29, 1875. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 15 corporators being present. Marshall C. Slocum was chosen chairman.

The following was received from the Treasurer:

The Treasurer submits for your consideration the following estimate of expenses for the ensuing year, including \$1200 for the school house debt.

I call the attention of the Corporation to this debt, and earnestly recommend that it be paid during the present year, as the time has arrived when we can easily do it without any increase of tax. Although it is impossible to tell just what our expenses will be, my estimate will show that the tax can be reduced three per cent., if it is thought expedient to do so.

Estimated expenses (given in detail),	\$7505
Income from Permanent Fund,	\$1100
Land rents,	120
Taxes at 17 per cent.,	6400
	<hr/> \$7650

Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to pay the Chapel debt, whenever he may be in funds.

The following communication from the Senior Warden was read, received and ordered to be recorded:

Easter Monday, March 29, 1875.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

Gentlemen: A severe cold has prevented my attending the Corporation meeting today, greatly to my regret, for I have wished to ask at your hand an increase of salary for the Rector of this Parish; but not being permitted to do so in person I beg to bring to your notice a few facts which seem to me worthy of your attention.

And first, let me say that I have not conferred with the Rector on this subject; that he has not mentioned it to me, nor, that I am aware of, to any other member of the Corporation, and that what I know of his wants and needs is wholly the result of my own observations.

You are cognizant of the fact, that the wants of the Church at large are made known in great part through travelling agents, usually clergymen, who pass from town to town on their mission, and who, on their arrival in a place, expect to be received and cared for by their brother clergy; and that Newport, particularly in the summer months, is thought to be a fruitful field that should be well tilled. Trinity Church is the representative Church in Newport, and visiting clergymen go at once to its Rector, and expect to be cared for by him during their stay. They are not always permitted to make their mission known to the Parish, for it does not always meet with the approval of the Rector; but in every case the advocate has to be entertained during his stay, and you would probably be surprised at the number of applications of this sort in the course of a year.

Again; a large part of the congregation during a portion of the year is made up of non-residents, who, on their arrival, make known to the Rector that they are here for the season, that they wish to be identified with the Parish, and would have him visit them the same as he visits his own people. The wish

is reasonable, and he endeavors to comply with it; but it can only be done at considerable expense to him; for they reside in cottages widely scattered, and at long distances—altogether too long for him to walk with the pressing demands on his time—we all know what it costs to ride in Newport in summer.

Now all these demands must be met out of the Rector's living, and they have so taxed his resources, that he found it out of his power to reduce the debt on his house, and with no prospect of making it less, and feeling the burden too heavy to bear, he was constrained to sell his property. Knowing these facts, and feeling confident that they have but to be made known to the Corporation to be met promptly, I would respectfully suggest that the Rector's salary be raised to Three Thousand dollars, and that a further sum of one thousand dollars be allowed him for a house.

Very respectfully,
GEORGE C. MASON.

Voted: that the Rector's salary be at the rate of three thousand dollars, with an additional sum of one thousand dollars for a house.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation.

The following officers were elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Samuel Engs, *Junior Warden*.

M. C. Slocum,⁴⁹ Benjamin Finch, Job T. Langley, William Cornell, John H. Cozzens, William G. Seabury, William E. Dennis, Samuel W. Francis, William H. Ashhurst, John S. DeBlois, William Edgar, *Vestrymen*.

⁴⁹ MARSHALL CHRISTOPHER SLOCUM was one of the useful working members of the Church, was prominent in the Vestry, and was Senior Warden from 1849 to 1855. He was born May 1, 1807, and died June 25, 1875. He was married, October 6, 1842, to Catharine Dennis Bull, daughter of the late Henry Bull. She died May 11, 1874.

Job T. Langley, *Secretary*.

William Cornell, *Treasurer*.

William H. Ashhurst, Samuel Engs, John H. Cozzens, M. C. Slocum, *Delegates to State Convention*.

Aug. Ulman, *Organist*.

J. G. Spingler, *Sexton*.

May 13, 1875. Voted: that the Wardens be a committee for keeping the Churchyard and the monuments in it clean and in order, as provided for in the will of Mrs. Martha Littlefield.

June 28, 1875. Voted: that J. H. Cozzens and William E. Dennis be a committee to assist the Wardens in seating strangers in the Church during the summer.

On motion of the Senior Warden, the following resolution was unanimously passed.

Whereas, our late associate, Marshall C. Slocum, has been taken from us by the hand of death, and whereas he was for many years an officer of this Church, indefatigable in his efforts to promote its interest, strong in his attachments to its rubric, upright in all the relations of life, and a sincere Christian; therefore

Resolved: that we deeply deplore his loss, while we bow to the will of Him who hath called him to his rest.

Resolved: that the above resolution be entered on the records of the Vestry, and that a copy be transmitted to the family of the deceased by the Secretary.

[August 27, 1875. Kay Chapel was dedicated, but no mention is made of it in the records.⁵⁰ The services were conducted

⁵⁰ *In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.*

I, Thomas March Clark, D. D., LL.D., by the grace of God, Bishop of Rhode Island, having been duly certified that this Chapel is not encumbered with debt, and that it is to be devoted to the worship of Almighty God, and other sacred uses, have this day, in the use of the Service provided for the

by Rt. Rev. Thomas M. Clark, Bishop of Rhode Island; assisted by Rev. Henry A. Coit, D. D., Rev. John Cotton Smith, D. D., Rev. George J. Magill and Rev. William S. Child, D. D.]

November 30, 1875. Meeting of the Vestry. The Rector in the chair.

Voted: that the sum of one hundred dollars be appropriated for dressing the Church at Easter, under the direction of the Wardens.

On motion of the Junior Warden, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

It having come to the knowledge of the Vestry that the Sexton has charged the families of deceased persons buried from the Church, for opening the Church, incorporating said charge in his bill of funeral expenses;

Resolved: that the Secretary be and he is hereby instructed to notify both Organist and Sexton that in no case, and under no circumstances, will they be allowed to make any charge, or institute any claim, directly or indirectly, for any services

Consecration of a Church or Chapel, and assisted by several of the Clergy of the Diocese of Rhode Island, on this twenty-seventh day of August, the Festival of St. Bartholomew, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, solemnly consecrated this edifice to be hereafter known as Kay Chapel, in the Diocese of Rhode Island, to the service of the Holy and Undivided Trinity the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

And I do by this instrument declare that this edifice is now separated from all unhallowed, worldly or common uses, and is sacredly dedicated to the service of Almighty God, and for the performance of all holy offices in accordance with the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and as prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this twenty-seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, the twenty-first year of my consecration.

THOMAS MARCH CLARK,
Bishop of Rhode Island.

{ SEAL }

they may be called upon to render, at weddings or funerals, held in the Church or Chapel.

On motion of the Senior Warden the following resolution was adopted:

It having been represented to this Vestry that a number of well-disposed persons have contributed various sums, for a free Mission Chapel in that part of the city known as "the Point," which sums in the aggregate have amounted to enough to warrant the Rector of this Parish to contract for the erection of a suitable building, in conformity with the wishes of the donors; and whereas the Rector and Wardens have been solicited to act as trustees of this property, it is therefore

Resolved: that the Rector and Wardens, and their successors in office, have the sanction of this Vestry to act as Trustees of said Mission Chapel, and of all funds raised for the same; it being understood that this Vestry is not to be held responsible, in any way, for the property so held in trust, or for the support, maintenance or management of said Mission Station.

[This was the last Vestry meeting at which Rev. Dr. White was present.]

December 27, 1875. At a meeting of the Vestry, at the residence of George C. Mason, Senior Warden, Monday evening, December 27, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, our beloved Pastor, Rev. I. P. White, D. D., Rector of Trinity Church—one who, from his earliest connection with this Parish, we have learned to love and respect—has been taken from us by the hand of death;

Resolved: that we humbly bow to the will of Him who doeth what seemeth good in His sight, and Who, for our transgressions, has brought pain and sorrow and distress upon us;

And whereas: to the good offices of Rev. Dr. White, during the nine years that he was settled over this Parish, we owe our present growth and prosperity;

Resolved: that we will keep the memory of our beloved Pastor green, by endeavoring to follow more closely the precepts and examples he has set before us; and will strive so to conduct the affairs of this Parish that it may be brought nearer to that standard to which he aimed to raise it.

And Whereas, the Sunday School—the little flock that he took such delight in gathering around him, the hope of his life, over which he watched with such untiring care, and for which his prayers daily ascended to Heaven—will feel keenly his irreparable loss;

Resolved: that we will make it an especial duty to sustain the school as he organized it, and to do all in our power to promote its growth and advance it in the knowledge and ways of the Church.

Resolved: that while we deplore our own immediate loss, we will not be unmindful of her, the partner of his life, who has been so suddenly stricken; that our sympathies be extended to her, and that our prayers may ascend on High, that He who is the widow's friend will look upon her with compassion, and give her that support in her hour of trial, of which she so sorely stands in need.

Resolved: that the Vestry take entire charge of the funeral of our deceased Pastor, and that a committee be appointed to carry out the wishes of his family in regard to his interment.

Resolved: that the Secretary be instructed to furnish the family of the deceased with a copy of these resolutions, and also a copy for the press.

Voted: that the family of Rev. Dr. White be permitted to inter his remains in that portion of the churchyard lying west of the Church, and now unoccupied.

Resolved: that the Wardens be a committee to carry out the wishes of the family of our deceased Rector in regard to his interment.

The Chairman appointed the following committees:

On Carriages and Guests; William E. Dennis.

On Dressing the Church; John S. DeBlois and William Cornell.

On Seating the Congregation; William G. Seabury, Samuel W. Francis and Job T. Langley.

On Music; Samuel Engs and William Edgar.

On Sunday School; John H. Cozzens.

Voted: that the expenses attending the sickness of our late Rector be met by the Vestry.⁵¹

⁵¹ CANON WHITE, ordained at the age of 24 years, remained a year at Quebec, with the late Bishop Montain, after which he had charge of the Parish of Chambly, 14 miles from Montreal, where he was settled for 15 years. At the expiration of that time, at the request of the Bishop of Montreal, he was transferred to the Cathedral of Montreal, where he had been four and one-half years when called to Newport. He was born at Sunderland, England, July 17, 1818, graduated at the University, Cambridge, pursued his theological studies under the Dean of Peterborough, and had a Parish on the Isle of Jersey, before he came to America. The funeral took place, December 30, 1875. The services were conducted by the Rt. Rev. Bishop of the Diocese, assisted by Rev. A. G. Mercer, D. D., Rev. William S. Child, D. D., Rev. Mr. Hargate, and Rev. Mr. Williams. The bearers were Rev. Messrs. Kettell, Peet, Henshaw, Greer, Richards and Waterman. The Church was draped with mourning over the Christmas greens. When the remains were lowered into the grave the Sunday School children pressed forward and in turn cast flowers upon the casket.

The next spring the Senior Warden received the following note from Mrs. White:

39 Pelham Street,
May 19th.

My dear Mr. Mason:

Would you have any objection to my placing a Memorial Cross on the Altar of Trinity Church?

I sent for photographs to Lamb, and enclose the one I like best for your approval. It is three feet high and of polished brass. Although I would like very much to get the Cross, of course I will not do so, if the Rector and Wardens do not entirely approve of it.

With kind regards,
Very sincerely yours,
CATHERINE WHITE.

The matter was referred to the Rector, who gave it his hearty approval, and the wishes of Mrs. White were carried out. On the base of the cross there is this inscription:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN MEMORY OF
REV. I. P. WHITE.

Resolved: that this meeting adjourn to Wednesday afternoon, at 1 o'clock at this place.

January 3, 1876. Meeting of the Vestry. The Senior Warden in the chair.

On motion of Benjamin Finch it was unanimously voted: that the Rev. Dr. Mercer⁵² be invited to fill the pulpit of Trinity Church, until such time as a Rector may be permanently called.

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January 7, 1876.

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I.,
through George C. Mason, Esq., Senior Warden;

Gentlemen: Your letter of the 3rd inst., expressing your unanimous and earnest wish, that I should fill the pulpit of Trinity Church, until the election of a Rector, has been very carefully considered. Under all the circumstances your wish has great weight with me, and I know not how to decline it. If I could be sure that my acceptance would be of much real benefit to the Church, I should allow no personal reasons to be heard, but would have accepted promptly some days since. However, I must hope that it will be so; and presuming my services will be a convenience to the Parish in its bereavement, and may do a little good to us all, hereby *I do accept*, laying aside all hesitancy.

One thing, however, with your permission, I wish to say: I think it should be clearly understood, that I do not assume the full care of all the work and interests of the Parish, but only such care as is necessary. Anything more than this on the part of a mere supply, might be of injury instead of benefit to the Parish, and to the coming Rector, as experience always shows. Besides on my own account, it is particularly proper I should now speak of this, because I shall come immediately after a Rector who has been marked (so far as I know) by a more abundant and successful activity than any of his predecessors in the long history of Trinity Church. (Besides, I ought to add, that even a permanent Rector remits, or has good ground to remit, much of the Parish labor during the season of the year just before us; for, as you know, in that season much more public labor is concentrated, than at any other period of the year.)

And now, presuming that you will not disagree to what I have said, I accept, Gentlemen, the charge you so earnestly offer me, trusting to the forbearance and good will of yourselves and the Parish, *and in the hope that you will soon be able to make choice of a Rector*, and am,

With much regard,

A. G. MERCER.

P. S. I will take charge on Sunday next.

On motion of Dr. S. W. Francis it was voted: that the thanks of the Vestry be extended to the Rt. Rev. Bishop of the Diocese, for the able and impressive sermon of yesterday morning, and that he be asked to furnish the Vestry with a copy of it for publication.⁵³

⁵³ IN REPLY to a letter from the Senior Warden, Bishop Clark wrote: "Will you allow me to thank the Vestry of Trinity Church, for the kind terms in which they have spoken of my sermon. I would not hesitate to give it to you for publication, but the manuscript is not in such a shape that the printer could do anything with it; and perhaps it would do as well, in any case, to publish merely that portion which relates directly to Dr. White, and this I enclose, for you to do what you please with the same."

The following is the extract:

"Over these Christmas emblems which adorn these walls there hangs the sable drapery of mourning. The voice that has spoken to you so often from this pulpit will be heard no more. Other hands than his will hereafter minister to you the sacred elements of the body and blood of Christ.

"In the death of Dr. White the Diocese of Rhode Island has met with a heavy loss. Never seeking office and never shrinking from responsibility which was laid upon him, he was faithful and just in the discharge of every public duty. The last time that I met him at the meeting of our Diocesan Board of Missions, of which he was a zealous and active member, little did we dream that we were having the benefit of his wise counsel for the last time. In the Standing Committee of the Diocese, of which he was also a member, his services were always counted as most valuable, and, although it cost him more time and effort to attend than the other members, he was sure to be in his place, unless hindered by some more imperious engagement. I need not say to this congregation that no regard for his own comfort or pleasure ever kept him at home.

"Dr. White has also represented the Diocese in our General Convention, and, although he rarely, if ever, intruded upon the public debates, his presence gave dignity and weight to the delegation, and his vote was always cast in strict accordance with his conscientious convictions.

"Of what service he has been to you, as your Pastor and Rector, it seems superfluous for me to speak. He has added largely to your numbers, reconciled conflicting views, watched over all the interests of the Parish with the eye of a father, gone from house to house in the discharge of his duties with unflagging energy; never, for any reason, remitting his attendance upon the poor, the afflicted, the sick and the dying; he has gathered the children into the Sunday School, and then followed them up with untiring zeal, instructed the young and prepared them carefully and faithfully for

Voted: that the Wardens be a committee to communicate the above to the Bishop, and to take charge of the printing, should the wishes of the Vestry, as above expressed, be complied with.

Resolutions presented from the Vestry of Emmanuel Church,

Confirmation. In no one thing has he ever been derelict or tardy, or careless, or superficial. His work here will abide long after his earthly form has crumbled to ashes. Look at the substantial and beautiful Chapel, free from all pecuniary encumbrance, which has replaced the small and uncomfortable building in which the Sunday School was once gathered; look at the condition of this ancient Church, and the sacred enclosure that surrounds it; the complete repair, the new furnishings, the beautiful embellishments which adorn these walls, all effected with no disturbance of the connections which hallow the antique and peculiar style of the sanctuary; and all in a great degree the result of his indomitable energy and irrepressible assiduity. I never knew a man, all whose cares and thoughts and activities seemed to centre so exclusively in the welfare of the Church. He loved it and cherished it, and worked for it, and talked about it, as if he counted everything else of minor account. His tastes and training were such as would be likely to make a Parish like this peculiarly grateful and attractive. I have no doubt that the sight of the old crown on the spire, and on the organ, was pleasant to his eye. It was a comfort to him that he preached in the same pulpit from which the voice of the saintly Berkeley was once heard; and I think it must have gratified him to have charge of the mother Church of the Diocese—one of the oldest in the land. Not that he was much given to mere sentiment, or likely to dwell upon such matters as these—*work*, hard, solid, steady work, was the thing which he loved. He was eminently a practical man, and he made everything subordinate to the particular task which he had in hand. He left nothing at loose ends. Nothing which could be done today was postponed to the morrow; nothing which he could do himself was ever left to others; and if he erred at all, it was in the direction of over work, and neglect of rest and recreation.

“It requires no subtle analysis to delineate the leading traits of Dr. White’s personal character. A glance at his face was enough to convince you that he was a man of will—a positive man—one who, when he had made up his mind to a thing, was quite likely to accomplish it. He did not rush rapidly to the end that he aimed at, in defiance of obstacles; but went quietly on, removing obstacles, one by one, until he had made a clear path for himself. He was not over sensitive as to what people said or thought of him, or if he was he never showed it; but once convinced that he was right, he followed his own convictions without much regard to the opinion of others. As might be inferred, he was a man of positive and decided opinions. I presume he was troubled with few doubts, and that

on the death of Dr. White, read and ordered to be placed on file.

The request in writing, of Aug. Ulman, to the Bishop and Standing Committee, to be admitted to the order of Deacon, was signed by all the members present.

faith must have been a natural virtue with him. The popular skepticism that grows out of the speculations of philosophy, or the researches of science, or the study of documentary evidence, could never disturb his mind. He received the doctrine of the Church as it had been delivered to him, preached it earnestly and lived by it faithfully. It was not in his nature to expatiate and deal with all sorts of subjects; but he drew his studies in one direction and brought all his acquirements to bear upon the illustration of that which was nearest his heart, and to which his life was consecrated. I have always heard that he was very bold and unflinching in his sermons, and never seemed to preach for the sake of establishing a reputation for eloquence or learning, or profound thought; but simply to convince the hearer of the truth which was inculcated, and to persuade him to regulate his conduct accordingly. There was always something peculiarly pleasing to me in his mode of conducting and reading the services of the Church—a simplicity and unction, which allowed the sacred words, and the thoughts which they embodied, to have full force, without any distraction growing out of the manner of the reader. He evidently *enjoyed* these services to the full, he never tired of saying over the same words, and the more frequently he could bring the people to worship with him in these sacred courts, the better did he like it. The habit of his mind was devout; he was at home in the atmosphere of prayer. His religion, true and earnest as it was, must take an orderly, methodical form of expression; it was stated and regular, rather than intermittent and fervid. He must do everything by rule, although not after a cold and formal manner. He was a genuine Christian, because he was true to his own nature, in all the developments and practises of his religious life. He sailed on a level keel, had probably had little experience of those spiritual tempests, which tear and convulse the souls of those who alternate all the while between sin and contrition. There was no effervescence of sentiment in Dr. White's composition, but he made strong personal friends, and those loved him best who knew him best. When I saw the young people of this Parish, with tearful eyes, drop their garlands of sweet flowers in his grave, I appreciated the hold that he must have had upon their hearts. And richly had he earned it, for no man could ever labor more assiduously, in season and out of season, for the children of his charge than he. Time only can heal the wounds which his loss has

The Treasurer reported \$136.98, the income of the Poor Fund. Of this sum \$95 was voted to known needy persons, and the balance was placed in the hands of the Senior Warden, to be distributed as he saw fit.

made, and only the presence of Jesus can relieve the gloom of that household, of which he has been the light and the life. We commend her who survives him to the care of the great Sufferer and Savior. May God give her peace in her hour of need. And to this bereaved Church we extend our most sincere and hearty sympathy. You are all bereaved. It was a touching tribute to the worth of your departed Pastor, that in all the Churches, of all names, Roman Catholic and Protestant, prayers should have been asked on the last Sunday, for his recovery. Cherish his memory and keep it ever green. Walk according to his precepts and follow his example. So live that when the Master calls you hence you may be prepared to join him again in the Church triumphant."

CHAPTER XIII.

1876-1882.

January 13, 1876. Special meeting of the Corporation; 17 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The following names were read by the Chairman, as having been proposed as Rector.

Rev. Mr. McAllister,	Rev. Henry A. Coit, D. D.,
Rev. H. M. Thompson,	Rev. E. A. Bradley,
Rev. G. E. Mortimer,	Rev. Mr. Mills,
Rev. Lucius Bancroft,	Rev. A. Douglass Miller,
Rev. R. G. Hutton,	Rev. William Mumford,
Rev. W. O. Gramis,	Rev. George P. Huntington,
Rev. E. O. Flagg.	

Voted: that an informal ballot be taken:

Rev. Dr. Coit, 15; Blank, 1.

On motion of William Cornell it was unanimously voted: that the Rev. Henry A. Coit, D. D., of Concord, N. H., be called as Rector.

Voted: that the salary be \$4000 per year.

Voted: that the Chairman communicate this vote to Rev. Dr. Coit.

Voted: that Philip Rider be elected eleventh Vestryman, in place of M. C. Slocum, deceased; and that he be an Auditor, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Slocum.

January 17, 1876. Meeting of the Vestry; the Senior Warden in the chair.

Voted: that the bills, attending the last sickness and interment of Rev. Dr. White, amount \$667.97, be paid.

Voted: that the complaint against the Sexton, for irregularities, be referred to a committee, to be appointed by the Chairman, who named William E. Dennis and John S. DeBlois.

March 1, 1876. Adjourned meeting of the Corporation; 17 corporators being present.

The following letter from Rev. Dr. Coit was read:

St. Paul's School, Jan'y 27, 1876.

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I.;

My dear Friends:

I feel that I ought no longer to defer my answer to your invitation to become your Rector, received some days since. I have given the matter most earnest consideration, and have conferred with those in whose advice I have confidence. I have been strongly inclined to come to you, and I have felt very deeply the honor you have done me, in thinking of me as successor to your late Rector. My highest ambition would be gratified if I could, in any worthy degree, carry out his work, and follow in his steps. And I loved and revered him so sincerely that my heart has strongly impelled me to try to do so, and to accept your call, trusting for help and strength, as he trusted.

But those who know this place, where I have spent almost twenty laborious years, think that if I were to leave it now its interests would sustain a very serious blow; and, while there is much that is encouraging in the work now, and hopeful for the future, I am aware that it is still without a permanent foundation, and that it still requires a great amount of faithful oversight, and diligent, watchful care. And at present there seems to be no one ready to take my place, should I leave here; those who are helping me here having been drawn chiefly from attachment to myself, and remain because I do.

Under these circumstances, which it is not necessary to dwell

upon more at length, but which those who know St. Paul, and its past history, fully understand, I feel that I am compelled to decline the work and duty to which you invite me. And I do so with unfeigned reluctance, and with the deepest interest in your Parish, and all the work of every kind of which it is the centre—and not as a mere form, but with a full heart, I pray God to bless you with a wise and faithful and holy and loving Rector, who may in time fill the vacant place which Dr. White's death has left—not only in the Church, but in so many hearts and homes.

And with the expression of my sincere thanks for the honor you have done me, and the courteous and cordial manner in which your action was brought before me, I remain,

Very faithfully and truly yours,

HENRY A. COIT.

To George C. Mason, Esq.,

Warden of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I.

Voted: that the Wardens be a committee to suggest some name to this Corporation as Rector.

March 21, 1876. Adjourned Meeting of the Corporation; 17 corporators being present, and the Senior Warden in the chair.

The Wardens reported the following additional names in connection with the vacancy: Rev. Mr. Magill, Rev. Mr. Crafts and Rev. William H. Benjamin; but made no suggestion.

Voted: that an informal ballot be taken:

Rev. Mr. Magill, 12; Rev. Mr. Crafts, 3; Scattering, 1.

On motion of William Cornell, it was unanimously voted: that the Rev. Mr. Magill,⁵⁴ of Wickford, be called as Rector;

Rev. George J. Magill,

Rev. and Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Corporation of Trinity Church, held this day, you were unanimously elected Rector of the Parish, and the pleasing duty was assigned me to make known to you the action of the Corporation, and also to urge your acceptance.

and that the Chairman be requested to communicate this vote to the Rev. Mr. Magill.

March 23, 1876. Meeting of the Vestry; the Senior Warden in the chair.

The following letter from Rev. Dr. Mercer was read by the chairman:

Newport, March 22, 1876.

My dear Mr. Mason:

I heard yesterday that you had chosen a Rector, and was glad to find you had managed the business promptly. By our arrangement in the beginning of January, I assumed the charge of the Pulpit and Parish "until the election of a Rector"; as that is now done, and I suppose that all the objects for which I took the place are answered, my duty is ended, and I beg leave respectfully to retire.

Trusting that my services have not been entirely without benefit, congratulating you that all is settled, and in the hope that your new Rector may prove a beneficial choice to the Parish, believe me with many kind wishes, and

Very respectfully,

A. G. MERCER.

To George C. Mason, Esq.,
Senior Warden, Trinity Church.

The Church is greatly in want of a pastor permanently settled over it; and it would be gratifying to us, not only to have you for our spiritual guide and head, but also to know that we may enter upon these pleasing relations at no distant day.

We have no parsonage, but provision is made for this want in the salary, which is fixed at four thousand dollars (\$4000) and which is to cover house rent. This was the arrangement with our late Rector.

Hoping for a favorable reply, and that you will be able to come to us at an early day.

Ever truly yours,

GEORGE C. MASON,

Senior Warden.

On motion of William G. Seabury the following resolutions were unanimously passed:

Whereas: the arrangement made with Rev. Dr. Mercer, for a temporary supply of the pulpit of Trinity Church, ceased by its own limitation on the election of the Rev. George J. Magill, as Rector; therefore

Resolved: that the thanks of this Vestry be extended to the Rev. Dr. Mercer for the faithful discharge of the duties of his ministerial office in the Church, Kay Chapel and the Parish at large.

Resolved: that it is the unanimous wish of the Vestry that the Rev. Dr. Mercer be invited to remain in charge of the Parish, till such time as it shall be known what action the Rev. Mr. Magill will take in regard to the call extended to him.

Resolved: that the Senior Warden be a committee to make known to Rev. Dr. Mercer the wishes of the Vestry, as above expressed, and that the salary of the late Rector be continued to Rev. Dr. Mercer during the time of his stay with us.

April 11, 1876. Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to hire the sum of \$1500, to meet the current expenses of the Church, and to pay Rev. Mr. Magill one quarter's salary in advance, as requested.

The following letter from Rev. Dr. Mercer was ordered to be recorded:

Newport, R. I., March 24, 1876.

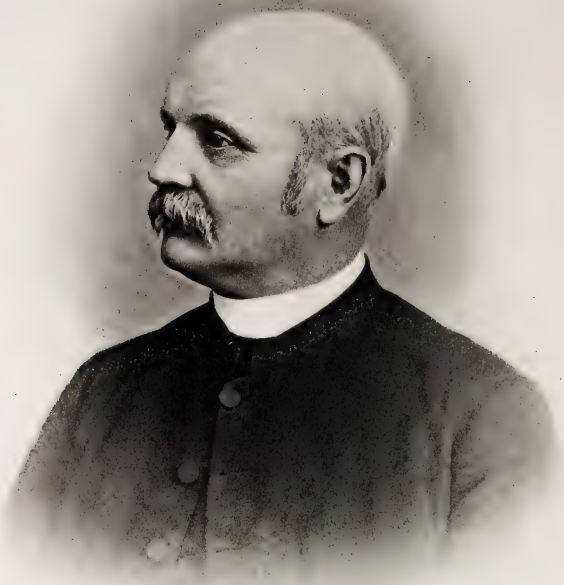
George C. Mason, Esq., Senior Warden:

I have this moment received the preamble and resolutions the Vestry passed last night, and cheerfully accede to the unanimous wish of the Vestry, that I should continue my ministrations until the time named in their resolutions; or, indeed, so long as they have need of me.

Thanking the Vestry for their kind resolutions,

I am very respectfully,

A. G. MERCER.



REV. GEORGE J. MAGILL, D.D.

April 17, 1876. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 17 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The following letter was read and ordered to be recorded:

St. Paul's Rectory, Wickford, R. I.,

April 1, 1876.

To the Vestry and Corporation of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I.;
Gentlemen:

The call which you recently extended to me, inviting me by a unanimous vote of your honorable body, to become the Rector of Trinity Parish, has had my serious consideration. I have much pleasure in announcing, as the result of my deliberations, that I accept the call, and will enter upon my duties as Rector of Trinity Church immediately after Easter Day. I shall take it as a great kindness if you will make arrangements to have my salary paid quarterly in advance. I wish to adopt the cash system in my business transactions; and, as my removal will necessarily require some expenditure, the above method would be most satisfactory.

I pray that God will bless *our united efforts* to advance the cause of His Church, not only in its material prosperity, but in its development of that spiritual household, which consists of living, loving and faithful hearts.

Gentlemen, please accept my thanks for your unanimous expression of confidence, and believe me to be always,

Yours faithfully,



The officers of the Church were re-elected, with Philip Rider, Vestryman, in place of M. C. Slocum, deceased.

Voted: that the Vestry be authorized to have placed an appropriate monument to the grave of our late Rector, the Rev. Dr. White.

On motion of John H. Cozzens the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the Rev. A. G. Mercer, D. D., in compliance with the invitation of the Vestry, to take charge of the Parish till the vacancy caused by the death of our late Rector, Rev. I. P. White, D. D., was permanently filled, has performed all the duties of Rector *pro tem.*; and whereas those duties have been brought to a close by the election of Rev. George J. Magill, as Rector thereof;

Resolved: that the cordial thanks of this Corporation be, and they are hereby, extended to the Rev. Dr. Mercer, for the faithful, able and impressive manner in which the services of the Church, and the various offices of the ministry have been uniformly conducted by him; and that the action of the Vestry, continuing to Rev. Dr. Mercer, during the time he has been in charge of the Church the salary paid to Rev. Dr. White, be and is hereby continued.

Voted: that the Secretary convey to Rev. Dr. Mercer⁵⁵ the thanks of the Corporation as above expressed.

April 18, 1876. Voted: that the Senior Warden be a com-

⁵⁵ To Job T. Langley, Esq.,
Sec'y, &c., &c.

My dear Mr. Langley:

I have just received a copy of the Resolutions of the Corporation of Trinity Church, passed yesterday; also the enclosed check, and beg to return my sincere acknowledgements and thanks. If my services have been of benefit in any way, that alone would be not only a gratification but a reward.

Accept once more my earnest good wishes in behalf of the Church under its new Rector, and my kind feelings for each of you personally, and believe me,

With much regard,
A. G. MERCER.

Newport, R. I.,
Tuesday, April 18th, 1876.

mittee to report a plan and estimate for a monument to our late Rector, Rev. Dr. White.

Voted: that the matter of the repairing of the bell be referred to Benjamin Finch and John H. Cozzens, with power to act.

May 19, 1876. The Rector, Rev. George J. Magill, was present, and presided.

The Committee on Repairing the Bell submitted the following letter:

West Troy, N. Y., May 10, 1876.

Mr. John H. Cozzens,

Dear Sir: We will furnish one of our best, fully warranted bells, made of superior metal, for 30 cents a pound, and from the price of the mountings deduct 10 per cent. For the sum of \$30 we would place the new bell in your tower, and lower the broken one; we to furnish the ringing and tolling ropes without charge. For the old bell, just the bare bell, we would allow 20 cents per pound.

New bell, say 3550 lbs. at 30 cents,	\$1065
Mounting, 140 lbs., less 10 per cent.,	126
Placing the bell in tower,	30
	<hr/>
	\$1221
Old bell, if it weighs 1800 lbs. at 20 cents,	360
	<hr/>
	\$861

Your order is respectfully solicited.

Yours truly,

MENEELY & COMPANY.

Voted: that the report of the committee be accepted, and that they be authorized to purchase a 3500 lb. bell.

Voted: that the Rector and Senior Warden be a committee to furnish a motto, to be placed on the new bell.

Voted: that the income from the Littlefield Fund be placed

in the hands of the Senior Warden, to be expended according to his discretion.

July 13, 1876. The following letter from the committee on the bell, was read and received:

Newport, R. I., July 13, 1876.

The Committee on Bell beg leave to report that they found the old bell cracked beyond repair; and after a correspondence with different Bell Founders, and a personal visit to Troy, made an arrangement with Messrs. Meneely & Co. of West Troy, for a new bell, of 3500 lbs. weight.

After the above arrangement, out of deference to Dr. King and others, they had the old bell, weighing 1876 pounds, incorporated into the new one, which weighs 3450 pounds, and has the following inscription upon one side.

"Vivos Voci. Mortuos Plango."

When I do ring God's praises sing,
When I do toulé pray heart and soule.

Upon the opposite side:

The gift of Queen Anne to Trinity
Church, Newport, R. I., 1709.
Re-cast in 1843. Recast and doubled
in weight, 1876.

BENJAMIN FINCH,
J. H. COZZENS,
Committee.

The Senior Warden reported that he had made a design for a monument to the late Rector, which had met with Mrs. White's approval.

Voted: that the whole matter be left in the hands of the Senior Warden, with power to act.

December 1, 1876. Voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to hire a sum of money, not exceeding \$700, to meet the expense of the monument, erected to the memory of Dr. White.

January 1, 1877. Voted: that the matter of a memorial window be left to the Senior Warden.

April 2, 1877. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 16 corporators present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The Treasurer's estimate for the current year was \$6750.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation.

Voted: that the Rector's salary be at the rate of \$4500 per year.

Voted: that the increase of \$500 to the Rector's salary be paid in advance.

The officers of the Church were all re-elected.

April 10, 1877. Alfred Langley was elected Organist, with a salary of \$500 per year.

J. G. Spingler was elected Sexton.

The salary of Galen Davis was fixed at \$100, and that of W. J. H. Ailman and Miss Easton, at \$50 each.

The Treasurer was authorized to hire \$1500.

May 16, 1877. The following committees were appointed to make arrangements for the Diocesan Convention, to be held in Trinity Church, in June:

On Correspondence; George C. Mason and Samuel Engs.

On Collation; Philip Rider and William E. Dennis.

On Reception; John H. Cozzens, J. S. DeBlois and S. W. Francis.

Voted: that the income of the Littlefield Fund be placed in the hands of the Senior Warden, to be expended according to his discretion.

January 3, 1878. Voted: that from and after this date the Junior Warden shall make an annual statement of all sums received by him on account of the Church, which statement shall accompany the Treasurer's report and be audited by the Auditing Committee.

April 22, 1878. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 15 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The Treasurer's estimate of expenses for the year was \$7850.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation.

The officers of the Church were re-elected, with Henry D. DeBlois in place of W. H. Ashhurst.

Delegates to the State Convention; V. Mott Francis, William H. Ashhurst, John H. Cozzens, William Edgar.

The Wardens were to put a walk down on the south side of the Church, from Spring street to the south door.

April 15, 1879. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 17 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The Treasurer's estimate for the ensuing year was \$7510.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation.

The officers of the Church were re-elected.

Delegates to the State Convention; John H. Cozzens, John S. DeBlois, William Cornell, William Edgar.

April 28, 1879. Voted: that the Sexton be restricted to his proper duties, and that he shall not be allowed to rent, sell, or purchase any pews.

Voted: that William G. Seabury be authorized to act for the owners of pews, either for sale or rental; that notice be given the owners of pews that Mr. Seabury has been appointed by the Vestry, to act as agent for the sale or rental of pews, and that notice of the same be posted in the belfry.

The Junior Warden was to have discretionary power with regard to the rental of Corporation pews.

June 30, 1877. On motion of J. H. Cozzens, it was voted: that we sign a testimonial for Charles Howard Malcom, who has applied to the Standing Committee of this Diocese, for admission to Holy Orders.

The following testimonial was then signed by the Rector, Wardens, and all the Vestrymen present:

To the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Rhode Island:

We whose names are here underwritten testify from our personal knowledge and belief that Charles Howard Malcom is pious, sober and honest; that he is attached to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and that he is a Communicant of the Church, in good standing; and do furthermore declare that, in our opinion, he possesses such qualifications as fit him for entrance in a course of preparation for the Holy Ministry.

Memorandum, August 13, 1879:

"The monument in Trinity Church Yard, to John Fraser, was erected August 25, 1877; under the superintendence of Dr. David King.

"The following gentlemen, most of whom the former pupils of Mr. Fraser,⁵⁶ contributed towards the monument the sums opposite to their names.

"The whole cost of the monument and erecting was \$35. Samuel Brown, \$10; Stephen Cahoone, William Gilpin, Edward Brinley, David King for George G. King, deceased, and David King, each \$5."

September 24, 1879. On motion of Dr. S. W. Francis, it was voted: that the Rev. H. B. Sherman be invited to fill the pulpit during the vacation of the Rector; and that his compensation be at the rate of \$50 per week.

⁵⁶ IN THIS TOWN, on Wednesday last, Mr. John Fraser, in the 56th year of his age. He was for nearly thirty years an eminent teacher in the Latin and Greek languages, and the mathematics. His qualifications were highly respectable, founded on a finished education at the high school and University of Edinburgh. Many of his scholars have been celebrated for the extent and accuracy of their classical and mathematical attainments. Mr. Fraser was an honest man, never ashamed of, and reflecting honor upon that highly literary nation, Scotland, which gave him birth. His loss will be deeply felt, and his memory as a man of science and integrity, will be held in high respect by his fellow citizens.—*Newport Mercury*, October 6, 1821.

Voted: that Dr. S. W. Francis be a committee to extend the invitation.

On motion of John H. Cozzens it was voted: the Vestry, learning that the Rector contemplates a visit to Europe for a few weeks;

Resolved: that his usual vacation of six weeks be extended from the time he expects to leave, October 11th, to the week before Christmas.

October 2, 1879. Dr. S. W. Francis reported that he had invited Rev. H. B. Sherman to officiate during the absence of our Rector; that Mr. Sherman intends leaving for Europe next month, and is obliged to decline.

On motion of John H. Cozzens, voted: that Rev. Dr. Langdon be invited to perform the duties of the Rector during his vacation, and that the compensation be at the rate of \$50 per week.

December 7, 1879. On motion of William G. Seabury, voted: to sign the following testimonial:

To the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Rhode Island:

We whose names are here underwritten, do testify, from evidence satisfactory to us, that Charles Howard Malcom, for the space of three years last past, hath lived piously, soberly and honestly; and hath not, so far as we know or believe, written, taught or held anything contrary to the doctrine or discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church; and, moreover, we think him a person worthy to be admitted to the Sacred Order of Deacons. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands, this seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord, 1879.

Signed by the Senior Warden and all the Vestrymen present; also by Samuel Engs, Junior Warden, who was confined to his house by sickness.

March 29, 1880. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 18 cor-

porators being present. Thomas R. Hunter was chosen chairman.

The Treasurer's estimate of expenses for the ensuing year, was \$7510.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation.

The officers of the past year were re-elected.

Delegates to the State Convention; J. H. Cozzens, William H. Ashhurst, W. G. Seabury, Job T. Langley.

Voted: that the Rector, Wardens and Philip Rider be a committee to purchase a new organ, at a cost not exceeding \$2000; that they dispose of the unused parts of the old organ, and report to the Vestry.

April 27, 1880. Voted: that the following letter from J. G. Spingler be received, and that he be requested to act as Sexton until the 1st of October:

Newport, R. I., April 27, 1880.

Gentlemen:

I find my health will not permit me to stay with you another winter, as Sexton of the Church, therefore I give you notice, that you may have ample time to look for a good man to fill my place. I should like to leave by the 1st of July. I don't want to be hasty, so if you wish I will stay until the 1st of October. Many thanks for your kindness towards me.

Yours respectfully,

J. G. SPINGLER.

June 8, 1880. A proposition to have the old works in the Church organ fitted to a new case, and set up in the Chapel, was favorably received, and the Committee on Organ was instructed to have this plan carried out.

Voted: to give the organ now in the Chapel to St. Matthew's Church, Jamestown, or St. John-by-the-sea, as the Rector may elect.

Voted: that the Wardens, when they have the Church cleaned, put down new carpets.

August 8, 1880. Mr. J. G. Spingler appeared before the Vestry, and verbally asked to withdraw his resignation.

Voted: that Mr. Spingler be allowed to withdraw his resignation, as per his request.

Voted: that the vote just taken be re-considered.

Voted: that the application of J. G. Spingler be laid on the table.

Voted: that William G. Schwarz be elected Sexton from October 1st, in place of J. G. Spingler, resigned.

October 27, 1880. Voted: that the whole matter of heating the Chapel be referred to the Senior Warden, with power to act.

November 21, 1880. On motion of Samuel Engs, voted: to sign the following testimonial:

To the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Rhode Island:

We whose names are here underwritten do testify that Charles Howard Malcom, for the space of three years, last past, hath lived piously, soberly and honestly; and hath not, so far as we know or believe, written, taught, or held anything contrary to the doctrine or discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church; and, moreover, we think him a person worthy to be admitted to the Sacred Order of Priests.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands this 21st day of November, A. D. 1880.

Signed by the Rector, Wardens, and the Vestrymen present.

February 1, 1881. The following communication was received:

Newport, January 29, 1881.

Gentlemen:

As trustee of the estate of Edward Littlefield Brinley,⁵⁷

⁵⁷ EDWARD L. BRINLEY was born in Newport, but during the greater part of his life made his residence in Philadelphia, where he died, October

late of Newport, deceased, by decree of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, on the application of all his legal heirs, I am possessed of pew No. 76, in the broad aisle of Trinity Church, Newport. This pew was owned and occupied by Edward Brinley, the father of Edward L. Brinley, and by his grandfather, Francis Brinley; this last claiming it as son-in-law of Godfrey Malbone, who owned it, and was buried under it. All the above have paid the taxes.

There is not any paper title to the pew, now to be found among the family papers; and as it may be desirable to sell the pew, I would respectfully ask that you would cause a proper deed of the same to be executed, and made to me as Trustee.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't servant,

FRANCIS BRINLEY, Trustee.

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church.

Voted: that Mr. Brinley be respectfully informed that the Vestry have no power to give a deed of the pew.

Voted: that in future the compensation for filling the pulpit, during the absence of the Rector (after this present vacation), be \$25 per Sunday, and expenses.

April 1, 1881. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 15 corporators being present.

The Treasurer's estimate of expenses for the ensuing year was \$8720.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation.

The officers of the Church were re-elected.

Delegates to the State Convention; John H. Cozzens, John S. DeBlois, William Cornell, Walter L. Kane.

June 23, 1881. The following communication from the Standing Committee was read and received:

5, 1875, aged 75 years. He was married to Fanny Smith Brown, sister of Thompson Skinner Brown, in Newport, July 7, 1834.

Providence, R. I., June 21, 1881.

To the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I.;

Gentlemen:

The undersigned having been appointed a sub-committee [some omission here on the part of the Secretary in writing up his minutes] with the object of finding a common basis of agreement between the parishes at Newport, and the Rev. Dr. Mercer, write to you to invite you to set before us any plan that seems to you likely to afford the basis of such agreement that would be satisfactory to yourselves.

Very respectfully,

C. A. L. RICHARDS,
in behalf of the Sub-Committee.

On motion of the Senior Warden, it was unanimously voted:

Whereas, the Vestry of Trinity Church has taken no action in the question now before the Standing Committee, touching All Saints' Chapel, and has not had the subject of the opening or closing of that edifice before it;

Resolved: that the Vestry respectfully decline the invitation of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee, to take part in a discussion of the subject, or to offer any suggestions touching a matter the merits of which are fully understood by the Standing Committee, and with which this Vestry has nothing to do.

Resolved: that the Secretary be instructed to furnish the Sub-Committee with a copy of these resolutions.

September 5, 1881. The Senior Warden having reported the furnaces in the Chapel worn beyond repair, the matter was referred to him, with power to act.

On motion of the Senior Warden, it was unanimously voted:

Whereas, the members of this Vestry have heard with deep regret of the intention of Rev. William S. Child, D. D., to permanently remove from Newport, with his family, and retaining

as they do, a just sense of his long and faithful service, as a pastor and a teacher of youths in this community, and particularly his kindly office in frequently filling the pulpit of Trinity Church, during the temporary absence of the Rector;

Voted: that the thanks of this Vestry be, and they are hereby extended to Rev. Dr. Child, for his valuable services at such times, with the hope that in his new field of usefulness, he and his family will enjoy the blessing of health; that his labors will be crowned with success, and that the school which he founded, and which has been an honor to Newport, may be continued with increasing numbers, and with beneficial results to the youths who may be so fortunate as to be under his charge.

Voted: that the Rector be requested to present a copy of the above vote to Rev. Dr. Child.

The Junior Warden reported that Mr. Benjamin Finch had made the following proposition: that if the Vestry would release him from all taxes now due on his pew No. 73, and from all taxes on pew No. 96, during his life and that of his wife, he would deed to the Church his pew No. 73, on the Broad Aisle to them and their assigns forever. Which proposition was accepted.

The following communication from Rev. William S. Child was received and ordered to be recorded:

Asheville, N. C., Sept. 12, 1881.

Rev. George J. Magill,

My dear Sir:

I was much surprised on Monday last, just as I was leaving Newport, at the communication, of which you were the bearer, from the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport, and most deeply touched by the nature of the contents. It has been hard at best, for me to wrench myself from Newport, and break the ties that have been formed by a residence of twenty years, many of them grown exceedingly dear to me.

Nothing can be more grateful to me in doing this, than such a testimony as this you brought me. I do not regard my sojourn here as other than temporary, and by the opening of spring, when my health is better, as I hope it will be, while I may not return to Newport, I trust I shall to its neighborhood, when I shall hope often to have the pleasure of seeing and being with you. Meanwhile neither I nor my family will ever forget the kind feeling which has placed this testimony in my hands, and I beg you to be the bearer of this reply to the Wardens and Vestry of dear old Trinity; and beg to remain, with great respect to yourself and family,

Yours faithfully,
W. S. CHILD.

January 19, 1882. Voted: that William G. Seabury be authorized to collect the January and July tax, and that he be allowed the sum of \$50 for the same.

CHAPTER XIV.

1882-1889.

April 10, 1882. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 16 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The Treasurer made report, as follows:

The Treasurer respectfully reports that more than \$800, of extraordinary expenses, and a loss of part of the income from the Permanent Fund, has prevented the payment of any part of the \$1500, hired on account of the organ. The cash in hand is hardly sufficient to meet the demands on the Treasury until the next tax is payable.

The estimate for the year was	\$8840
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The income	\$8300
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Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation.

The officers of the past year were all re-elected, with Henry A. Rice in place of M. C. Steadman.

April 17, 1882. Voted: that the Vestry request the Rector to have published in pamphlet form, the sermon which he preached on the death of Dr. King.

Mr. August Belmont having expressed a wish to place in Trinity Church a memorial window, to the memory of his deceased daughter.

Voted: that Mr. Belmont have permission to put in such a memorial in any one of the windows in the Church edifice he may select, that of the Chancel excepted.

Mr. John W. Paine having expressed a wish to place an altar in Kay Chapel, commemorative of his deceased mother;

Voted: that permission is hereby given to Mr. Paine to place an altar in the Chapel, under such restrictions as the Rector and Wardens may impose.

March 26, 1883. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 16 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The Treasurer's estimate of expenses for the ensuing year was

\$9030

Probable income,

8160

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation.

The officers of the Church were re-elected, with Marshall C. Steadman in place of Dr. Francis.

Whereas, our assessment for Bishop's salary and Convention expenses seems to us very excessive;

Voted: that the Treasurer be directed not to pay exceeding the sum of \$250; and that the Secretary notify the Chairman of the Finance Committee of this vote.

Resolved: that William Cornell, Treasurer, be a Committee in behalf of this Corporation, to receive from the Executrix of the last will and testament of Alexander G. Mercer, the bequest to this Corporation, by Section 3 of his will.

The following communication from the Rector was read, received and ordered to be recorded:

Newport, March 26, 1883.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I.;

Gentlemen:

It has seemed to me for a long time, that some effort should be made to procure a Rectory for our Parish, but I have been so much engrossed with the mission work, which deservedly claimed all my surplus energy, that I have not been able to

move any more in that direction. Meanwhile quite a number of people connected with the Parish have approached me, expressing their regret that a Church of this magnitude (standing third on the list of parishes in this Diocese) should have no settled home for its Pastor, and offering contributions towards raising one.

It has been my rule to say, that while I felt the hardship and embarrassment of house hunting and moving (owing to the fluctuating nature of real estate in Newport) yet the Corporation had made some provision for house rent in adjusting the salary of the Rector. I have also uniformly declined to receive any donations until I should have the countenance of the Corporation. I respectfully ask therefore that you will concur in the following proposition:—appoint a committee, of which your Rector shall be one, who shall take charge of this subject; and if they should deem it advisable, adopt measures to procure funds for the purchase of a Rectory, or to receive and hold such voluntary contributions as may be offered; with the understanding that the Corporation are in no way to be involved in expense or responsibility, and shall not be expected to recognize or hold in trust any building until it is entirely free from debt.

Trusting, gentlemen, that you will approve of my proposal, and grant my request, I am very faithfully and sincerely your devoted Rector,

G. J. MAGILL.

Voted: that a committee be appointed, and that the Rector, John H. Cozzens and Philip Rider be that committee.

April 5, 1883. Resolved: that no person shall be allowed to charge for the use of the Church for funerals or weddings.

Resolved: that whenever the services of the Choir be requested at Funerals, a compensation be allowed to the members thereof, sufficient to compensate them for the loss of time occasioned for such services; and should any money be paid voluntarily by individuals for the services of the choir, at such times, it shall be used for the above purpose; the Rector to have power to

draw on the Treasurer for any further sum that he may need to properly compensate the choir.

April 27, 1883. The Senior Warden was authorized to contract for painting the exterior of the Church; and William E. Dennis was to be associated with him in making all necessary repairs before painting.

September 17, 1883. On motion of Samuel Engs the following testimonial was signed by the Rector and Wardens, and members of the Vestry who were present.

To the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Rhode Island:

We whose names are here underwritten testify, from our personal knowledge and belief, that John Eldred Brown is pious, sober and honest; that he is attached to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and that he is a communicant of the said Church, in good standing; and do furthermore declare that in our opinion he possesses such qualifications as fit him for entrance on a proper course of training for the Holy Ministry.

The following communication from the Treasurer was received:

September 17, 1883.

Gentlemen:

Being unable to attend your meeting today, I send you some papers which require your attention; particularly the notice of the Convention assessment, amounting to \$280. As the Corporation appropriated only \$250, for that purpose, I ask you to appropriate the balance, \$30, in order that I may be relieved from embarrassment at the proper time of payment.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM CORNELL, Treas.

Voted: that in reply to the communication from the Treasurer, the Secretary be requested to send him a copy of the

resolution passed at the meeting of the Corporation, on Easter Monday.

April 14, 1883. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 16 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The Treasurer presented the following estimate, which was ordered to be recorded:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen:

The assessment for the Bishop's salary and Convention expenses, for the present year, is \$280, payable in equal parts, July 1st and January 1st, with interest if not promptly paid. That due January 1st, \$140 with interest from that time, is yet unpaid, owing to a deficiency in the appropriation.

The Treasurer has been unable to pay any part of the organ debt (\$1500) with no prospect of doing so in the near future.

Estimated expenses for the ensuing year,	\$9600
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Probable income,	8200
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WILLIAM CORNELL,
Treasurer.

The officers of last year were re-elected.

Voted: that the Treasurer pay our proportion of Bishop's salary and Convention expenses, and the balance due of last year's assessment.

June 5, 1884. An invitation from Rev. F. W. Baker to be present at the semi-centennial services of Zion Church was read and accepted.

September 24, 1884. On motion of George C. Mason it was voted to sign the following testimonial:

To the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Rhode Island:

We whose names are here underwritten testify, from our personal knowledge and belief, that George Ernest Magill is pious, sober and honest; that he is attached to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and

that he is a communicant of the said Church, in good standing; and do furthermore declare that in our opinion he possesses such qualifications as fit him for entrance on a course of preparation for the Holy Ministry.

Signed by the Rector, Wardens and the Vestrymen present.

October 22, 1884. Philip Rider, for the Committee on Parsonage, reported that the committee had been offered the Lieutenant Stedman house, on Pelham street, which would, with some alteration, be suitable; and could be purchased and the alterations made, for a sum not exceeding \$12,000.

October 30, 1884. Mr. Rider, for the Committee on Parsonage, reported that about \$9000 had been raised.

April 6, 1885. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 15 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

The Treasurer's estimate of expenses for the ensuing year, was

\$8852

Probable income,

8360

Voted: that the tax be 20 per cent. on the valuation.

The following officers were elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Samuel Engs, *Junior Warden*.

Benjamin Finch, Job T. Langley, William Cornell, John H. Cozzens, William G. Seabury, William E. Dennis, Henry D. DeBlois, John S. DeBlois, Walter L. Kane, Philip Rider, Rodman Cornell, *Vestrymen*.

Job T. Langley, *Secretary*.

William Cornell, *Treasurer*.

May 1, 1885. On motion of George C. Mason the following testimonial was signed by the Rector, Senior Warden and the Vestrymen present:

To the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Rhode Island:

We whose names are here underwritten do testify from

evidence satisfactory to us that George Ernest Magill, for the space of three years last past, hath lived piously, soberly and honestly; and hath not, so far as we know and believe, written, taught, or held anything contrary to the doctrine or discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church; and, moreover, we think him a person worthy to be admitted to the Sacred Order of Deacons.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands, this first day of May, A. D. 1885.

June 23, 1885. The following communication from the Rector and Wardens of Zion Church was read and received:

Newport, R. I., June 22, 1885.

To the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: We, the undersigned, of a special Committee of the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Zion Church, Newport, R. I., request the privilege of the use of Kay Chapel, for morning and evening services, on Sundays, and Friday evening service, during the period of building our Chapel on Rhode Island avenue.

Trusting to receive an early and favorable answer, we remain truly and faithfully your co-workers for Christ and His Church.

CHAS. G. GILLIAT, Rector,
ERNEST GOFFE, Sen. Warden,
JAMES PEARSON, Jun. Warden,
Committee.

On motion of George C. Mason, voted: in response to the request of Zion Church to have the use of Kay Chapel on stated days, for services during the time their own Church is building; that the Rector and Wardens be allowed to use the Chapel during the months of July and August, on Sundays, after 11.30 a. m., and on Friday evenings, with the understanding that the use of the Chapel shall be relinquished on the first of September; at which time our own evening services in the Chapel will

be resumed, as appears by a card, showing the time of our services, which the Secretary is requested to enclose with a copy of this resolution.

On motion of Philip Rider the ayes and noes were called, and the resolution was passed.

Ayes: George C. Mason, Benjamin Finch, Job T. Langley, William E. Dennis, Walter L. Kane, John S. DeBlois; 6.

Noes: Samuel Engs, Henry D. DeBlois, John H. Cozzens, William G. Seabury, Philip Rider, 5.

The Wardens were instructed to furnish Rev. C. G. Gilliat with a certified copy of this vote.

The following letter was received July 9, 1885:

Newport, R. I., July 6, 1885.

To the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen:

The kind allowance of the use of Kay Chapel, for the Zion Church congregation, was duly received.

In reply we would state that, owing to the limited time and the lateness of the hour named for morning service—half-past eleven o'clock—it is deemed inexpedient to accept the same.

With sincere regards we are your o'bt servants in Christ.

CHARLES G. GILLIAT, Rector,
ERNEST GOFF, Sen. Warden,
JAMES PEARSON, Jun. Warden.

December 1, 1885. The death of Captain John S. DeBlois, a member of the Vestry, was announced.

On motion of the Senior Warden it was voted:

Whereas, our late associate, Captain John S. DeBlois, has been taken from us by the hand of death, we bow as becometh us in meek submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well; and whereas, he was for many years a Vestryman of this Parish—one whose fidelity to the Church, its ritual and its material interest was unswerving;

Resolved: that as a mark of respect to his memory we will attend his funeral in a body;

Resolved: that a copy of this resolution be engrossed and sent to the family of the deceased by the Secretary.

April 7, 1886. On motion of William G. Seabury, the following testimonial was signed by the Rector and Junior Warden, and members of the Vestry present.

To the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Rhode Island:

We whose names are here underwritten do testify, from evidence satisfactory to us, that J. Eldred Brown, for the space of three years last past, hath lived piously, soberly and honestly, and hath not, so far as we know or believe, written, taught or held anything contrary to the doctrine or discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church; and, moreover, we think him a person worthy to be admitted to the Sacred Order of Deacons. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands, this seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six.

March 26, 1886. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 15 corporators being present.

The Treasurer's estimate of expenses for the ensuing year was

\$8595

Probable income,

8200

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation.

The following officers were then elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Samuel Engs, *Junior Warden*.

Benjamin Finch, Job T. Langley, William Cornell, John H. Cozzens, William G. Seabury, William E. Dennis, Henry D. DeBlois, Walter L. Kane, Philip Rider, Rodman Cornell, LeRoy King, *Vestrymen*.

Job T. Langley, *Secretary*.

William Cornell, *Treasurer*.

John H. Cozzens, Rodman Cornell, Walter L. Kane, LeRoy King, *Delegates to the State Convention*.

May 10, 1886. Special meeting of the Corporation.

Voted: that the resignation of Samuel Engs [who was in a precarious state of health] as Junior Warden be accepted.

On motion, an informal ballot was taken for Junior Warden, to fill the vacancy.

Rodman Cornell, 8; George Gordon King, 3; William G. Seabury, 2; Walter L. Kane, 1; Blank, 1; 15.

Voted: that Rodman Cornell be Junior Warden.

Voted: that Samuel Engs be the 10th Vestryman, in place of Rodman Cornell.

July 2, 1886. The following communication from the Junior Warden was read:

Newport, June 30, 1886.

George C. Mason, Esq.,

Senior Warden of Trinity Church;

Dear Sir: The books of the Junior Warden were handed to me. I could not understand them without some explanation. I gave them to the Auditors, and have been waiting to receive from them a statement, so that I can make out the bills, with a definite knowledge of their amounts.

I think this matter should be attended to at once, as there is no money in the Treasury, and the Rector draws his salary July 17th for the next quarter.

Respectfully,

RODMAN CORNELL,

Junior Warden.

Adjourned meeting the same evening.

Voted: that the list of unpaid taxes, as made by William G. Seabury, be a basis for the Junior Warden for the July tax.

Voted: that the Auditing Committee be requested to audit the books of William G. Seabury, and report.

September 15, 1886. On motion of John H. Cozzens, the following testimonial was signed by the Rector, Junior Warden and the Vestrymen present:

To the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Rhode Island:

We whose names are underwritten testify, from our personal knowledge and belief, that Herman Lilienthal is pious, sober and honest; that he is attached to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and that he is a Communicant of the said Church, in good standing; and do further declare that in our opinion he possesses such qualifications as fit him for entrance on a course of preparation for the Holy Ministry.

December 15, 1886. The death of Samuel Engs,⁵⁸ late Junior Warden, having been announced, on motion of the Senior Warden, the following resolutions were unanimously passed:

Whereas, it has been announced by the Rector that our late associate, Mr. Samuel Engs, long a member of this Vestry, and for many years the Junior Warden of the Parish, has been taken away by the hand of death, after a severe and protracted illness, it is the wish of the Vestry to testify to his long and efficient service as an officer of the Church, and to the respect due to the memory of one who was an exemplary Christian,

⁵⁸ MR. ENGS was a man of strong, intense feeling, that carried him to the end, when he had made up his mind that the course he was pursuing was the right one. Whatever he did was done with a will—with no thought of self, of time or trouble. This was shown in the Church, and at the Newport Hospital; at which latter he was an indefatigable worker, until failing health forced him to retire and wait for the change, which he saw was at hand. He was strong in his faith, loved to labor for the Church and in the Sunday School; for which latter service he conscientiously prepared himself by careful study.

Mr. Engs was married to Elizabeth Cornell Stanhope, oldest daughter of Captain John R. Stanhope, September 27, 1837. He died November 14, 1886.

and an active, earnest worker in all that tends to the growth and prosperity of the Church—a God-fearing man, whose benevolence led him to minister to the wants of the sick and infirm, without questioning their faith or creed. Therefore,

Resolved: that in the death of Mr. Engs this Vestry has lost one of its most earnest and devoted workers.

Resolved: that as a mark of respect to his memory we will attend his funeral in a body.

Resolved: that we tender to the family of our deceased associate our sincere condolence and warmest sympathies.

Resolved: that the Secretary be directed to send a copy of this preamble and these resolutions to the family of the deceased, and furnish the local newspapers with a copy.

February 7, 1887. The death of the Treasurer was announced to the Vestry.

Voted: that George C. Mason, Senior Warden, be a committee to draw suitable resolutions on the death of Mr. William Cornell, the late Treasurer.

Voted: that Philip Rider be elected Treasurer for the balance of the year.

Voted: that the Vestry attend the funeral of the late Treasurer, in a body.

The following resolutions were passed:

The Vestry of Trinity Church, having heard with pain and regret, of the death of Mr. William Cornell, their associate for many years, desire to express their deep sense of the loss the Church has sustained in his death, and their high appreciation of his worth, his Christian virtues, and his long and faithful service as Treasurer, to which office he was elected in 1862. During all these years he has cared for the funds placed in his hands in a manner that has made his name synonymous of probity and fidelity. He was a man of singular purity of character. No one ever heard him say aught to disparage a fellow

being, and no one can recall an instance where he was not correct and just, and honorable in his dealings. He avoided the crowded walks of life, and took no part in any public excitement or demonstration; but uniformly kept to his own quiet way, striving to be just to all, true to his religious belief, and to be ready for that summons, which must in turn come to us all. As he lived so he died—a good and upright and righteous man.

Resolved: that we sincerely mourn the loss of our late associate, and that in a body the members of this Vestry will attend his funeral.

Resolved: that a copy of this preamble and these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased by the Secretary.

April 15, 1887. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 18 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

Two motions were made on the rate of tax for the ensuing year: one at 20 per cent. on the valuation, and the other 15 per cent. A ballot was taken on the proposition to levy a tax at the rate of 20 per cent. Yeas, 12; noes, 3; blank, 1.

The following officers were then elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden*.

Rodman Cornell, *Junior Warden*.

Benjamin Finch, Job T. Langley, John H. Cozzens, William G. Seabury, William E. Dennis, Henry D. DeBlois, Walter L. Kane, Philip Rider, LeRoy King, George Peabody Wetmore,* John Ireys, *Vestrymen*.

Job T. Langley, *Secretary*.

Philip Rider, *Treasurer*.

John H. Cozzens, Rodman Cornell, Walter L. Kane, LeRoy King, *Delegates to State Convention*.

April 22, 1887. Voted: that the following testimonial be signed by the Rector, Wardens and Vestry:

* MR. WETMORE declined to serve.

To the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Rhode Island:

We whose names are here underwritten do testify, from evidence satisfactory to us, that George Ernest Magill, for the space of three years past, hath lived piously, soberly and honestly; and hath not, so far as we know or believe, written, taught or held anything contrary to the doctrine or discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church; and, moreover, we think him a person worthy to be admitted to the Sacred Order of Deacons. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands this twenty-second day of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven.

June 7, 1887. A communication to the Senior Warden from parties interested in the conveyance of the Tate property, or Clarke estate, now in the possession of the Appleton estate, was read and the following resolution was passed:

Resolved: that the Treasurer be instructed to apply to Francis B. Peckham, Esq., to draw up such papers as in his opinion would be proper for the consideration of this Vestry, touching the matter in question.

Voted: that the act of this Vestry April 28, 1879, creating an agency for the sale and renting of pews, be and is hereby repealed.

June 13, 1887. A communication from Francis B. Peckham, and also a deed of property (once leased to Thomas Harkness by Trinity Church) was read and considered.

Voted: that the matter lie on the table.

Notice of the death of Mr. Job T. Langley was presented by the Rev. George J. Magill, and the following resolutions were read and adopted:

Whereas, in the providence of God, our late associate, Mr. Job T. Langley, has been taken from us by the hand of death, we bow with meek submission to the will of Him who holds our destinies in His hands; and

Whereas, Mr. Langley, by long and faithful service as a member of this Vestry and Corporation, has won our respect and regard, we wish to pay tribute to his strict integrity, and the faithful discharge of his duties, and attest to his worth and Christian virtues; therefore

Resolved: that this Vestry sincerely mourns the loss the Church has sustained in the death of Mr. Langley, and that we deeply sympathize with his afflicted family.

Resolved: that the Secretary *pro tem.* be and he is hereby instructed to furnish the family with a copy of these resolutions.

Voted: that the Vestry attend the funeral in a body.

June 16, 1887. Francis B. Peckham, Esq., was presented to the Vestry, and explained some of the legal points in relation to the conveyance of the Tate estate, and the Clarke land, to Thomas Harkness. After some discussion it was

Voted: that the Wardens be a committee to look into the matter in question, and make a written statement of the subject to the Vestry.

June 22, 1887. The committee to whom was referred the matter of the Tate property made the following report:

To the Vestry of Trinity Church:

Your Committee, instructed to ascertain all the facts that could be gathered in relation to the Tate estate, beg leave to report that the following extracts from the will of William Tate, as recorded in the office of the Court of Probate. The will is dated June 7, 1758.

"Item. I give and bequeath to my well-beloved wife, Mary Tate, all my estate, real and personal, for and during the term of her natural life, to her own proper use and behoof.

"And my will further is that if my said wife shall think it needful to sell and dispose of my messuage or dwelling house, where I now live in Newport, aforesaid, together with the lot of land whereon the same stands, together with the buildings,

improvements and appurtenances to the same belonging, then I give her full power and authority to grant, bargain and sell the same to any person or persons that shall purchase it, and to sign, seal and duly execute a good deed of conveyance thereof in fee simple, which shall be for the maintenance of my said wife during her life; and after the decease of my said wife what shall be then remaining of my said Estate I give and bequeath the same unto the poor people belonging to the Church of England, in Newport aforesaid, to be distributed to and among them in equal parts and proportion, by such person or persons as my said wife shall nominate and appoint for that purpose."

"Recorded in the Town Council book of Newport, No. 11, pages 538 and 539, Newport, August 8, 1758, and now to be found in Vol. I, page 49, in the records in the office of the Probate Court."

William Tate, blacksmith, was married to Mary Iverson, May 21, 1731, by Rev. James Honyman. Mrs. Tate died in the autumn of 1780. What disposition of the estate was made immediately after her death cannot easily be ascertained. The Revolution was not closed, and probably the property was but of little value, for some time. After that it was rented to Joseph Dyer, at an annual rental of \$30, the Church to keep it in repair. The rent was paid up to December 25, 1804, and after deducting expenses for repairs the Church realized \$164.72, for the 6 years, 8 months and 20 days that it has been occupied.

In 1806 it was leased to a man named Yeomans, for 999 years; the consideration being \$800, which sum was placed to the credit of the Poor Fund. From the Yeoman notes the Church appears to have realized only \$700, which amount was invested in the "Clarke lot." In 1822 the "Clarke lot" was ordered to be sold by the Vestry; but the committee saw fit to lease it for 999 years, and the property was so leased to Thomas Harkness, for \$645. This substituting of a lease for a deed in fee simple had the tacit approval of the Vestry, and the committee were not to sell for less than \$600.

At this time, 1822, an investigation showed that the original

sum of \$800, representing the estate, and placed to the credit of the Poor Fund, had been expended, to meet pressing demands against the Church. March 27, 1823, it was voted by the Vestry that eight shares of the stock of the R. I. Union Bank, par value \$100, should be set aside for the use of the poor of the Church; the interest to be annually distributed to the poor, in proportion to their situation and wants. This act was immediately confirmed by the Corporation.

The funds so set apart represent the Tate Estate; they are intact, and the interest is annually given to the poor of the Church.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE C. MASON,
RODMAN CORNELL,
Committee.

Voted: that the report be received and placed on record.

Voted: that the Vestry obtain a legal opinion from Hon. William P. Sheffield upon the subject, and that Mr. LeRoy King be a committee to confer with and consult that gentleman, and report at some future meeting.

July 14, 1887. The committee appointed to obtain the opinion of William P. Sheffield, Esq., on the Tate property, Clarke lot, &c., reported and read the opinion.

Voted: that the report be received and the opinion be recorded.

OPINION.

The following case is stated by the Vestry of Trinity Church for my opinion, to wit:

Statement of facts.

William Tate, by his last will, dated June 7, 1758, gave and bequeathed to his wife, Mary, all his estate, real and personal, for and during her natural life, with the power of disposing of all, or so much thereof as she should need for her support.

From and after the decease of his wife, he gave what should

remain of his estate, unto the poor people then belonging to the Church of England in Newport, to be distributed to and among them, in equal parts and proportion "by such person or persons as my wife shall nominate and appoint for that purpose."

This will was duly proved and recorded, August 8, 1758.

Mary Tate survived her husband and died about 1780, without having disposed of the homestead estate, the title to the proceeds of which is involved in this inquiry, which she took under the will of her husband, and without having exercised any power of appointment for the distribution thereof.

It may be noticed here, that the gift was not to the Corporation of Trinity Church, either in its corporate or any other name.

Second. That the gift was to the poor of the Church in being at the time of the decease of Mary Tate, to be equally divided among them.

The following extracts taken by Mr. George C. Mason from the records of the Vestry of the Corporation of Trinity Church, show what was done in reference to this trust.

[The "extracts" have already appeared in these pages.]

From the records of the Church it appears that this lot was paid for from the proceeds of the lease of Tate land to Yeomans.

The "Clarke lot" was probably leased by the Vestry up to 1822, when the vote hereinbefore recited, to sell the lot, was passed and a committee was appointed *to sell* the same.

The deed from Lawrence Clarke and Hannah Clarke, his wife, recites that: "In consideration of \$700, paid by William Littlefield and William Wood, Wardens of Trinity Church, and to Theodore Dehon, Rector, Francis Brinley, John Boures, Francis Malbone, Benjamin Gardiner, Henry Sherburne, John Handy, William Croke, Robert N. Auchmuty, Saunders Malbone, Simeon Martin, Peleg Wood, Edward Brinley and John C. Scott, *Vestrymen*, of Trinity Church, aforesaid forever, a tract of land measuring three acres and a fourth part of an acre, bounded northerly on a passage way, or drift way, easterly on land belonging to John Easton; southerly on land of Daniel Lyman, and westerly on a road leading to Easton's Beach; 'Habendum' to the said Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of Trinity Church

forever." The grantees acknowledge the deed in common form (wife not apart from her husband).

Upon the Town records, following the above written deed is the following, to wit:

"At a meeting of the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, in Newport, R. I., the 27th day of May, 1806:

"Whereas the lot of land of which Lawrence Clarke and Hannah Clarke, his wife, have executed a deed of conveyance, bearing date the 19th day of this present month, to the Rector, Vestry and Wardens of this Church, was purchased with money arising from the sale of a house and land in Newport, given by William Tate, late of Newport, in his last will and testament to and for the sole benefit of the poor belonging to this Church;

"Voted: therefore, that the rents and profits of said lot be appropriated to the charitable and benevolent purpose for which it was designed by the testator, and that the same be distributed yearly and every year forever among the poor belonging to this Church at the Discretion of the Rector and Wardens for the time being; and that this resolution be entered by the Clerk of the Vestry upon said deed, and that he be requested also, to cause the same to be recorded by the Town Clerk of Newport, as well as in the book of records belonging to this Church, in order that a punctual compliance with the will of the said testator, as far as in the power of the Vestry may be observed and religiously attended to, by them and their successors.

"Newport, May 20, 1806.

"I hereby certify the above to be a true copy as extracted from the books of Records belonging to Trinity Church in this town.

J. BROWN, Clerk of Vestry."

The Committee appointed to *sell* the Clarke Lot; instead of selling it, leased it to Thomas Harkness for 999 years, and, though they had authority to sell the lot for not less than \$600, they leased it for an advanced rent *in solido* of \$645.

This sum, with the accumulations of rents then on hand, amounting together to \$800, was invested by the Church in a permanent fund, for the benefit of the poor of the Church.

The facts recited show either gross carelessness, or a want

of knowledge of the law of trusts, in the persons who have taken part in the transactions here recited, probably the latter, for there is nothing disclosed in the facts which authorizes any inference inconsistent with entire good faith; for when it was discovered that the Church had made a temporary loan of this fund, an energetic disposition was at once manifested to repay it; and it was repaid. Yet it must be conceded, that Trinity Church was never appointed trustee under the *Tate will*, and when it assumed the control of the trust property as a volunteer trustee, it perverted the trust, as created in that will, and, instead of dividing the trust estate among the poor of the Church *in esse* at the time of the death of Mary Tate, they invested it as a permanent fund, and have distributed the income among those who were the poor of the Church at the time the income was received.

But I think that the Tate devise and the trust that it created, must be eliminated as an important factor from the subject under consideration.

Whatever may be upon Trinity Church records in reference to that trust can in no way affect the holders of the title of the Clarke lot at the present time. Even the copy of what appears to have been a copy of a vote of the Vestry, which is upon the Town Records and follows the record of the Clarke deed, is not sufficient to affect any subsequent purchaser of that land, with notice of the existence of any trust under the Tate will, for I think that such a paper was not properly admissible of record.

The following resolution was then offered by Mr. George C. Mason, Senior Warden, and seconded:

Resolved: that Philip Rider, Treasurer of this Corporation, be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed as such Treasurer, to execute, seal and acknowledge and deliver, for and in the name and behalf of this Corporation, bearing date this day, from this Corporation to Edwin S. Burdick, in trust for the purpose of satisfying and confirming the lease of this Corporation to Thomas Harkness, dated April 24, 1822, and recorded in volume 16, on page 130, of the land evidence of Newport.

On motion the house was called, with the following result:

Ayes, George C. Mason, LeRoy King, William G. Seabury, John H. Cozzens, John Ireys, William E. Dennis; Noes, Philip Rider, Henry D. DeBlois.

October 21, 1887. The following communication was read by the Senior Warden:

We the undersigned, members of the Vestry of Trinity Church, request George C. Mason, Esq., Senior Warden, to call a meeting of the Vestry of said Church, to hear a request of William G. Seabury, Esq., for the late Junior Warden's book, to enable him to verify his accounts of pew collections.

J. H. COZZENS,
PHILIP RIDER,
LEROY KING,
WILLIAM E. DENNIS,
RODMAN CORNELL.

Voted: that the Auditing Committee be requested to meet William G. Seabury, Esq., at the Vestry room, to examine the books of the late collector of taxes; and also that they be allowed to invite other suitable persons to be present.

March 23, 1888. Voted: that Rodman Cornell, Junior Warden, and John Ireys be added to the committee to audit accounts of collector of taxes.

April 2, 1888. Annual Meeting of the Corporation; 16 corporators being present. George C. Mason was chosen chairman.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation of the pews.

The following officers were then elected:

George C. Mason, *Senior Warden.*

Rodman Cornell, *Junior Warden.*

Benjamin Finch, John H. Cozzens, William E. Dennis, Henry D. DeBlois, Walter L. Kane, Philip Rider, LeRoy King, John Ireys, Theodore R. Helme, V. Mott Francis, *Vestrymen.*

William E. Dennis, *Secretary*.

Philip Rider, *Treasurer*.

William E. Dennis and John Ireys, *Auditing Committee*.

John H. Cozzens, Rodman Cornell, Walter L. Kane, LeRoy King, *Delegates to State Convention*.

Voted: that the music be left in the hands of the Rector.

May 22, 1888. Voted: that the carpeting of the Chapel be left with the Senior Warden.

Voted: that the generous offer of a lady to be at the expense of oiling the exterior walls of the Chapel be accepted.

June 14, 1888. Voted: that a committee of two, V. Mott Francis and Henry D. DeBlois, be appointed to wait upon Mr. William G. Seabury, late Collector of Taxes, and read the report of the committee, which was accepted by the Vestry, and ascertain if the report is satisfactory.

August 28, 1888. The Vestry having learned that the Senior Warden, Mr. George C. Mason, has written the "Annals of Trinity Church," covering the most interesting periods in its history;

Voted: that a committee be appointed to extend to Mr. Mason an invitation to publish in book form the material he has collected with so much assiduity; and to take such steps as they may deem expedient to raise by subscription the means necessary to carry out the wishes of the Vestry as here expressed; their body having no power to appropriate money for that purpose.

Voted: that the Rector and V. Mott Francis be that committee.

October 22, 1888. Voted: that the Senior Warden make such terms for the collecting of the taxes as he shall consider for the interest of the Church.

January 24, 1889. The contract between the officers of the

Church and William G. Schwarz, the Sexton, was read, approved and ordered to be placed on file.

Voted: that the dividends from the Poor Fund be placed in the hands of the Rector, for distribution.

Voted: that the request of Mrs. Samuel Powel, for the perpetual right to place a gravestone in the Churchyard, to the memory of her deceased Father, the late Robert Johnston (who died and was buried in Jamaica), on unoccupied ground, to the west of and adjoining the graves of her mother and of William Hind and his wife, be granted.

Voted: that the sum of fifty dollars, which Mrs. Powel has been pleased to present to the Church, be added to the Parsonage Fund.

Voted: that the Secretary inform Mrs. Powel that her request is granted, and thank her for the above gift to the Church.

April 1, 1889. Voted: that the Rector, with John H. Cozens and V. Mott Francis, be a committee on music.

CHAPTER XV.

1889-1892.

April 22, 1889. Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Present: George C. Mason, Benjamin Finch, Philip Rider, J. G. Spingler, T. R. Helme, William E. Dennis, V. Mott Francis, John H. Cozzens, Rodman Cornell, Mrs. M. T. Berry, John Ireys, George Gordon King, LeRoy King, Henry D. DeBlois, William J. Cozzens, Miss Annie Coggeshall, Walter L. Kane, David Pinniger, Robert C. Cottrell, Walter H. Lewis. George C. Mason chosen chairman.

The Junior Warden's report read and approved.

Voted: that the tax be at the rate of 20 per cent. on the valuation of pews.

The following officers were then elected:

LeRoy King, *Senior Warden*.

Rodman Cornell, *Junior Warden*.

Benjamin Finch, John H. Cozzens, William E. Dennis, Henry D. DeBlois, Walter L. Kane, Philip Rider, John Ireys, Theodore R. Helme, V. Mott Francis, George Gordon King, *Vestrymen*.

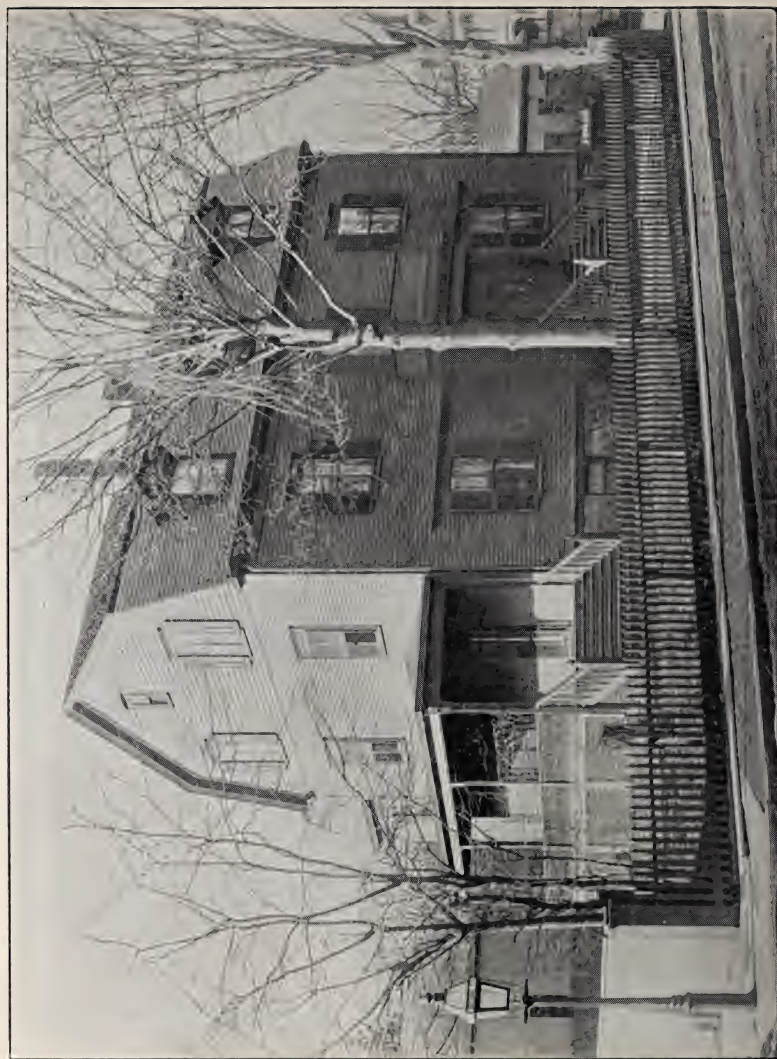
William E. Dennis, *Secretary*.

Philip Rider, *Treasurer*.

John H. Cozzens, LeRoy King, George Gordon King, V. Mott Francis, *Delegates to State Convention*.

Voted: that the sum of \$1000 be appropriated for music.

Voted: that the salary of the organ blower be \$75.



RECTORY OF TRINITY CHURCH.

The election of Sexton and Organist, as usual, was referred to the Vestry.

The Report of the Trustees of the Rectory Fund was read and received, and the following resolution was passed:

Resolved: that the report of the Trustees of the Rectory Fund be received and placed on file, and that the property named therein be accepted by this Corporation, as the "Rectory of Trinity Church," and that the committee cause a deed of trust to be properly executed, and to have the care of the property.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I.:

The committee in charge of the "Rectory Fund" respectfully report: that in the disposition of that fund they have purchased a lot of land on the corner of Cottage and Beach streets, on which has been erected a suitable building, to be occupied as a Rectory for said Church. The summary of receipts are, for subscriptions, donations, offerings and interest on deposits, \$15,051.99. The whole amount of expenditure, for land, buildings and incidentals, is \$15,051.99.⁵⁹

⁵⁹ RECEIPTS FOR RECTORY FUND OF TRINITY CHURCH.

1882.	Anonymous, .25; Dr. Davis, \$50,	\$50.25
1883.	January dividend,	1.00
	May 2, A. P. Stokes, \$100; (21) Dr. Ogden, \$100,	200.00
	June 1, Dr. Terrill,	100.00
	July dividend,	1.02
	July 6, D. B. Tennant, \$100; (21) Mrs. J. C. Brown, \$200,	300.00
	Aug. 4, F. Sheldon, \$100; W. R. Travers, \$200; (6) Miss Gray, \$100; (7) H. H. Cooke, \$100; (8) Mrs. Belmont, \$100; (18) St. Stephen's Guild, \$100,	700.00
	Sept. 2, H. T. Livingston, \$25; (8) Collection of Miss Grace Russell, \$127,	152.00
	Oct. 27, St. Margaret's Guild,	1038.50
	Nov. 11, Anonymous,	2.00
	Dec. 10, L. P. Morton,	500.00
1884.	January dividend,	19.56
	Jan. 3, W. L. Kane, \$100; Mrs. Thorndike, \$100,	200.00
	Feb. 19, H. A. Rice, \$200; (22) Royal Phelps, \$100,	300.00
	Carried forward,	\$3564.33

The undersigned Trustees of said property (until such time as it should be fully paid for) now desire to convey the same to the Church, under the same conditions as they have held it, without incumbrance.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE J. MAGILL,
PHILIP RIDER,
WILLIAM E. DENNIS,
Trustees.

Brought forward,	\$3564.33
Mar. 15, G. G. King, \$100; V. Mott Francis, M. D., \$5; Mrs. and Misses Bailey, \$600; W. Riggs, \$25; Mrs. Edward King, \$500; (18) W. H. Lewis, \$250; (25) Miss Mary E. King, \$100,	1580.00
Apr. 2, Mrs. Beach, \$250; (5) St. Stephen's Guild, \$100; (13) Offertory Trinity Church, \$186.41; (15) Mrs. Zimmerman, \$5,	541.41
May 10, St. Stephen's Guild,	40.00
July dividend,	67.58
July 25, G. C. Mason, \$50; W. E. Dennis, \$50; P. Rider, \$50,	150.00
Aug. 2, Mrs. E. W. Howard, \$50; (17) Offerings in Trinity Church, \$550,	600.00
Sept. 7, Offering in Kay Chapel, \$2.71; (14) Do., \$4.67; (21) Do., \$3.64; (28) Do., \$3.88,	14.90
Oct. 5, Offering in Kay Chapel, \$1.90; (12) Do., \$1.45; (19) Do., \$2.12; (26) Do., \$1.84,	7.31
Nov. 2, Offertory in Kay Chapel, \$2.28; (9) Do., 1.88; (23) Do., \$2.27; (30) Do., \$1.56,	7.99
Dec. 7, Offertory in Kay Chapel, \$5.20; (14) Do., \$2.16,	7.36
1885. January dividend,	103.51
Jan. 11, Offering in Kay Chapel, \$1.31; (18) Do., \$1.34; (25) Do., \$1.07; (31) Industrial Society, \$25.25,	28.97
Feb. 2, Industrial Society, \$10; (22) Offertory in Kay Chapel, \$1.42,	11.42
Apr. 5, Offertory in Trinity Church, \$158.16; (6) Industrial Society, \$25; (12) Offertory in Kay Chapel, \$1.27,	184.43
June 20, Judge Dickey,	500.00
July dividend,	115.87
July 6, Major Bryce pew,	32.00
Carried forward,	\$7557.08

Resolved: that the report of the Trustees be received, recorded and placed on file, and that the property named therein be accepted by this Corporation; also that the Trustees cause a deed of trust to be properly executed, and have the care of the property.

The following was then read and received:

	Brought forward,	\$7557.08
	Aug. 7, C. H. Russell,	250.00
	Sept. 6, Offertory in Trinity Church: cash, \$243.38, and cheques, Mrs. Auchincloss, \$25; H. A. Rice, \$100; Dr. Ogden, \$25; Miss Wolfe, \$250; Major Bryce, \$30; Mrs. Riley, \$5,	678.38
	Nov. 2, Interest on Gilliat note,	85.00
1886.	January dividend,	140.46
	Jan. 14, L. P. Morton, \$100; (19) J. H. Calvert, \$50; (23) Mrs. Belmont, \$200,	350.00
	Apr. 25, Offertory in Trinity Church,	207.84
	July dividend,	178.74
	July 31, Major Bryce, \$50; Miss Armstrong, \$1,	51.00
	August 18, Cornelius Vanderbilt, \$1000; George M. Dock- ray, \$25; (20) Mrs. Boyle, \$1.50; (21) Mrs. Ingersoll, \$100; John Callaghan, \$5; (22) Offertory in Trinity Church, \$310.- 11; (23) Mrs. Travers, \$100; Miss E. G. Bosworth, \$100; F. W. Marshall, \$8.50; (25) Gustave Hamilton, \$1; Miss Wolfe, \$200; (29) G. M. Miller, \$25; (30) H. D. DeBlois, \$50,	1926.11
	Sept. 7, Cornell & Son, \$50; (8) LeRoy King, \$250; (14) Mrs. Snow and sister, \$8; (28) Miss C. A. Russell, \$25,	333.00
	Nov. 2, Mrs. J. W. Ellis, \$25; (15) Mrs. Evans, \$5; (20) Miss Eckley, \$10,	40.00
	Dec. 14, George P. Wetmore,	500.00
1887.	January dividend,	131.18
	Jan. 5, Col. J. H. Powel,	50.00
	Mar. 11, J. T. Langley,	10.00
	June 17, Major Bryce,	50.00
	July 11, George P. Wetmore,	500.00
	Oct. 9, Anonymous, \$10; (28) By P. Rider, \$22; Dona- tion, \$25,	57.00
1888.	Jan. 18, Anonymous, 300; Major Bryce, \$50,	350.00
	Mar. 31, Donation,	5.00
	Carried forward,	\$13,450.79

"Whereas, it is a source of gratification to this Corporation to learn that the want of a Rectory, so long felt by the Church, no longer exists, thanks to the zeal and perseverance of the Rector and the members of the Corporation associated with him as a committee, in removing the defect by securing the erection of a large, substantial and commodious structure, complete in

	Brought forward,	\$13,450.79
1889.	Jan. 24, Mrs. Samuel Powel, \$50; George Gordon King,	
	\$1100,	1150.00
	Feb. 2, David King, \$250; (15) Mrs. Colgate's pew rent, \$50,	300.00
	Mar. 1, Anonymous,	151.20

EXPENDITURES FOR RECTORY.

1886.	Sept. 25, Mrs. Ashhurst,	\$100.00	
	Oct. 1, Mrs. Ashhurst,	5100.00	
	W. Cranston,	8719.76	
	Insurance for 5 years,	60.00	
	Mr. Ives,	3.00	
	Mr. Bryer,	20.25	
	Recording deed,	1.50	
	Barker Brothers,	218.28	
	John B. Durfee,	90.50	
	Swinburne, Peckham & Co.,	14 40	
	James A. Randall,	25.56	
	John H. Walsh,	50.00	
	Lynch & Sullivan,	4.00	
	Thomas S. Nason,	209.05	
	Cornell & Son,	100.00	
	Joseph Haire,	24.55	
	Charles E. White,	99.50	
	I. S. Kane,	38.25	
	Water Works,	16.13	
	Cash paid for Sundries,	12.65	
	H. W. Cozzens,	12.80	
	J. A. Randall,	37.25	
	Brotherson,	35.63	
	Joseph Haire,	10.93	
	Barker Brothers,	48.00	
		<u>\$15,051.99</u>	<u>\$15,051.99</u>

all its appointments, which structure has this day been made over to the Corporation, free from debt or lien of any kind; therefore

“Resolved: that in accepting the substantial and attractive Rectory, the thanks of the Corporation are due, and are hereby extended to, the Rector and the members of the Corporation associated with him on the committee, for the successful conclusion of their labors in behalf of the Church, on which we cannot set too high a value; and that the members of the committee be furnished with copies of the above by the Secretary.”

The following resolutions were offered by Dr. V. Mott Francis, and passed unanimously:

Whereas, George C. Mason, Esq., the beloved Senior Warden of Trinity Church, has resigned the position which he has so ably, faithfully and honorably filled for more than forty* years, we, the Corporation of Trinity Church, cannot permit so grave an act to occur without placing on record our deep regret that he should sever his connection with the Vestry, our earnest declaration that we only accept his resignation at his most urgent request and on his positive refusal to reconsider his decision.

Resolved: that the Corporation of Trinity Church have experienced a loss of the gravest nature in losing the services of so experienced, accomplished, and zealous an officer.

Resolved: that the Corporation unanimously vote their thanks to the retiring Senior Warden for his long and faithful services, and declare that in so doing they only fulfill in a very feeble way their duty.

Resolved: that the Church of which he has for so long a period been so bright an ornament has sustained an irreparable loss.

* AN ERROR: forty-one years in the Vestry, of which time thirty years were employed as Senior Warden.

Resolved: that a copy of these resolutions be published in the newspapers of this city and in *The Living Church*, and that a copy be sent to his family.

The following resolutions were offered by Dr. Francis:

Whereas, the burden of taxation, necessary to sustain the Church and carry on the services in a becoming and proper manner, falls heavily on members of this Corporation whose means are not large.

Voted: that a committee of two be appointed to take such steps as they may deem proper, to raise the sum of \$30,000, as an Endowment Fund; the interest of said fund to be applied to the support of the Church and its ministrations, in connection with the present Church Fund.

Voted: that all sums contributed to this object be deposited as soon as received, in some bank of savings in Newport, where they will draw interest, which interest is to be added to the principal until the whole reaches the above sum of \$30,000. Not till then shall any part be used for the above purpose, and that no part of the principal shall be used for any purpose whatever.

Voted: that V. Mott Francis and William E. Dennis be that committee.

April 22, 1889. William G. Schwarz was elected Sexton, with a salary of \$500.

Voted: that William Irving Lyon be Organist.

Voted: that the Committee on Music be continued.

The following testimonial was signed by the Rector, Wardens and Vestry:

We whose names are here underwritten do testify, from evidence satisfactory to us, that Herman Lilienthal, for the space of three years last past, hath lived piously, soberly and honestly; and hath not, so far as we know or believe, written, taught or held anything contrary to the doctrine or discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church; and, moreover, we think him a

suitable person, worthy to be admitted to the Sacred Order of Deacons.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands this 22d day of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine.

October 25, 1889. On motion of Walter L. Kane, seconded by V. Mott Francis,

Voted: that the Treasurer be, and he is hereby authorized to pay to the committee appointed to raise a sufficient sum to print in book form the "Annals of Trinity Church," the sum of \$100, for the purchase of copies of said book, to be distributed by the Vestry in such manner as they may think proper.

November 9, 1889. Voted: that the Wardens be authorized to have printed a number of copies of the Charter of Trinity Church, with the amendments.

December 2, 1889. On motion of the Senior Warden,

Voted: that the Wardens be a committee to examine the Charter, and to recommend for adoption by the Vestry such amendments (if any) as they may deem advisable; the power to hold property to the value of \$100,000 included.

Voted: that the sum of \$100 be appropriated for the Christmas dressings of the Church and Chapel, under the direction of the Junior Warden and V. Mott Francis.

January 14, 1890. Vestry Meeting. Present: the Rector, two Wardens, and Messrs. Philip Rider, V. Mott Francis, John Ireys, Theodore R. Helme, H. D. DeBlois, John H. Cozzens and Walter L. Kane.

Sundry small bills were ordered to be paid.

The committee appointed to revise the Charter, reported:

1. That they have had 225 copies of the Charter, with amendments, printed.
2. That in their judgment it is unnecessary at this time to

revise the Charter, or to apply to the Legislature for an amendment allowing the Corporation to hold property to the value of \$100,000.

Voted: that the income of the Poor Fund now due be distributed, and that the Treasurer be authorized to distribute the same in accordance with the views of the Vestry, as expressed at this meeting, and to such persons as the Vestry may name, and to those who in their opinion such amounts would be judicious and acceptable; the balance to be placed in the hands of the Rector.

Voted: that the Junior Warden give the Sexton instructions to comply with the rules and resolutions pertaining to his duties, in relation to the opening of the Church for burial services; and also to notify undertakers and others of the action formerly taken by the Vestry concerning such matters.

It was moved by V. Mott Francis, and seconded by Walter L. Kane, that hereafter all resolutions and votes should be recorded with the name of the person who offered them, and also of the person who may second them.

April 7, 1890. Annual Meeting. Present: Philip Rider, John Ireys, Galen Davis, T. R. Helme, A. B. Sayer, Henry Bull, William E. Dennis, H. D. DeBlois, Walter L. Kane, John H. Cozzens, V. Mott Francis, George C. Mason, LeRoy King, Elizabeth C. Hayden, Emily Austin, Elizabeth C. Greene, J. G. Spingler, Joshua Sayer, Rodman Cornell, David Pinniger.

LeRoy King was elected Chairman and William E. Dennis, Secretary.

Minutes of last yearly meeting read and approved. Treasurer's report read and ordered to be placed on file. The Junior Warden's report was also read, received and ordered to be placed on file.

The following officers were elected:

LeRoy King, *Senior Warden*.

Rodman Cornell, *Junior Warden*.

Benjamin Finch, John H. Cozzens, William E. Dennis, Henry D. DeBlois, Walter L. Kane, Philip Rider, John Ireys, Theodore R. Helme, George Gordon King, David Pinniger, Archibald B. Sayer, *Vestrymen*.

William E. Dennis, *Secretary*.

Philip Rider, *Treasurer*.

William E. Dennis and John Ireys, *Auditing Committee*.

John H. Cozzens, LeRoy King, George Gordon King, Walter L. Kane, Michael Callaghan, *Delegates to the Convention*.

Archibald B. Sayer, Rodman Cornell, George M. Dockray, George H. Chase, *Substitutes*.

Moved and seconded: that the rate of tax be 15 per cent. on the valuation of pews. Vote taken, and on appeal a ballot was ordered; not being satisfactory the house was called. The result being in doubt, it was voted: that Rodman Cornell, Philip Rider and William E. Dennis be a committee to examine the records and ascertain who are legal voters, and to decide upon the vote.

Rodman Cornell, John Ireys, David Pinniger and William E. Dennis were appointed a Committee on Music.

The following amendments were offered, moved and passed:

That the expenditure for music shall not exceed \$1000.

The Music Committee were authorized to hire the organist and choir, and they were to be paid by the Treasurer, upon the approval of the committee.

It was voted: that the salary of the blower of the organ be seventy-five dollars.

William G. Schwarz was elected Sexton; the salary to be the same as last year.

Tellers were appointed and a ballot taken on the amount of the Minister's salary for the ensuing year. The result being in doubt, it was

Voted: that the same committee appointed to decide upon the vote on the rate of taxation, shall also have the same power to decide upon this vote.

Voted: that the Rev. George J. Magill be called as Minister for the year ensuing.

Voted: that from this date, Easter Monday, April 7, 1890, the Rector and Wardens shall not act as Trustees of the mission Chapel on the Point, now known as "St. John's Chapel."

Voted: that the Treasurer pay our proportion of the Bishop's salary and Convention expenses.

Voted: that we rescind the amendment previously passed, restricting the Music Committee to the expenditure of one thousand dollars.

The following report was then offered:

Newport, R. I., April 7, 1890.

Annual report of the committee appointed by the Corporation of Trinity Church, April 22, 1889, to raise the sum of thirty thousand dollars towards a fund to be called "The Endowment Fund of Trinity Church." The committee respectfully report that the amount of subscriptions received and deposited have reached the sum of \$54.00. Collection taken up March 9, 1890, in Church, \$29.59. Total amount received by the committee, \$83.59.

The committee report that all of the above amount has been deposited, as the resolution requires, in the Savings Bank of Newport, R. I., and no dividend has yet been received.

The committee respectfully request, as the fund is now fairly started, that all collections taken up in the future, and all private donations, or bequests, made or devised to the fund, from this date, shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Corporation, and that they be permitted to turn over their account and bank book to him, and that they be released from further service.

Respectfully submitted,

V. MOTT FRANCIS,

WILLIAM E. DENNIS.

April 24, 1890. Vestry Meeting. Present: Messrs. Henry D. DeBlois, Theodore R. Helme, David Pinniger, John Ireys, Archibald B. Sayer, John H. Cozzens, William E. Dennis. John H. Cozzens in the chair.

Records of last meeting read and approved.

The following communication was received and read:

To the Vestry of Trinity Church, Newport:

I hereby tender my resignation as Junior Warden of Trinity Church, to take effect immediately, not having the time to devote to the clerical work which the duties do and should require.

Respectfully,

RODMAN CORNELL,

Junior Warden.

Voted: that the communication lie on the table.

Voted: that John H. Cozzens and William E. Dennis be a committee to confer with the Junior Warden in relation to the matter, with power to act.

The following communication was also received:

April 22, 1890.

Gentlemen: I have in my possession twenty copies of the "Annals of Trinity Church," which were bought by the Vestry, to be distributed by them to such persons as they may select.

Respectfully,

RODMAN CORNELL,

Junior Warden.

Voted: that the twenty copies of the "Annals" be placed in the hands of John H. Cozzens and William E. Dennis, to be distributed to such persons as they may select.

The following communication was received:

To the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church:

Gentlemen: I feel grateful to the Corporation for re-elect-

ing me to the Vestry for another year; but after due deliberation have come to the conclusion that I will tender my resignation, to take effect immediately.

Yours truly,

WALTER L. KANE.

Voted: that the communication lie on the table.

A number of small bills were ordered to be paid.

July 25, 1890. At a meeting of the Vestry there were present: John Ireys, David Pinniger, T. R. Helme, Henry D. DeBlois, Philip Rider, John H. Cozzens, Archibald B. Sayer, William E. Dennis. Rodman Cornell, Junior Warden, in the chair.

Records of last meeting read and approved, and the following bills were ordered to be paid:

Cornell & Son, \$19.85; Irving P. Irons, \$150.00; E. K. Martland, \$62.50; R. B. Gardner, \$16.00; Carrie M. Doty, \$125.00; E. G. Brown, \$14.85; C. P. Scott, \$138.48; J. Lutz, \$26.00; Aquidneck House, \$7.00; Alfred G. Langley, \$10.00.

Voted: that the collections be received by the Wardens and paid to the Treasurer.

July 31, 1890. Special Meeting of the Corporation. Present: Henry Bull, Henry D. DeBlois, Theodore R. Helme, Rodman Cornell, John H. Cozzens, David Pinniger, J. G. Spingler, Galen Davis, William Gilpin, William E. Dennis, Philip Rider, Elizabeth C. Hayden, Emily Austin, Ruth Greene, George W. Carr, Robert Cottrell, George C. Mason, V. Mott Francis, William J. Cozzens, A. B. Sayer, David King, Amy R. Sheldon, Thomas G. Brown, C. Vanderbilt.

Meeting was called to order, and the following call was read:

"There will be a meeting of the Corporation of Trinity Church, in Kay School House, on Thursday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, to accept the resignation of the Junior Warden, and elect his successor."

Thomas G. Brown was elected chairman.

The following communication was read:

July 26, 1890.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

I hereby tender my resignation as Junior Warden of Trinity Church, to take effect immediately; as I have not the time to devote to the duties of the office, which it should and does require.

Respectfully,

RODMAN CORNELL.

Voted: that the resignation of Rodman Cornell be accepted.

A ballot was then taken, which resulted in the election of Thomas G. Brown as Junior Warden until Easter, 1891.

Voted: that the Auditing Committee examine the books of the late Junior Warden, and transfer them to the Junior Warden elect.

December 19, 1890. Meeting of the Vestry. Present: Rev. George J. Magill, Rector; Thomas G. Brown, Junior Warden; Messrs. John H. Cozzens, Philip Rider, William E. Dennis, John Ireys, Henry D. DeBlois, Theodore R. Helme, David T. Pinniger, Archibald B. Sayer, Vestrymen. Rector in the chair.

Records of last meeting read and approved.

William E. Dennis having resigned as Secretary of the Corporation, Archibald B. Sayer was elected Secretary *pro tem*.

A number of small bills were ordered to be paid.

It was moved and seconded: that the sum of one hundred dollars be appropriated for Christmas decorations, and that Mr. George H. Riggs be contracted with to perform the work so ordered.

Mr. John H. Cozzens presented the following resolutions:

Whereas, attention has been called to the long-standing and unusual manner of handling funds collected in the name of Trinity Church, therefore

Resolved: (as provided in Sections first and fourth of the Charter) that all funds now in hand or hereafter collected for any purpose connected with Trinity Church, be handed over to the Treasurer of the Corporation.

Resolved: that all monies taken at any collection, excepting that taken on the first Sunday of the month at Holy Communion, shall be paid over to the Treasurer, and disbursed by vote of the Vestry.

Resolved: that collections taken for special purposes be received by the Treasurer, and distributed by him on proper vouchers.

Resolved: that requests for collections for local charities be referred to the Vestry for action.

Resolved: that collections in aid of the general expenses of the Corporation, be taken from time to time, as the Vestry may direct; thus relieving the taxes on the pews.

Moved by Mr. Rider and seconded by Mr. Brown: that the resolutions be laid on the table, which motion was lost.

After a debate by Mr. Rider, Mr. Cozzens and other members of the Vestry, and a few remarks by the Rector, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Cozzens, Sayer and Brown, was appointed to present to the Corporation, at its annual meeting, suitable resolutions embodying the purpose of those above mentioned.

March 30, 1891. Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

The meeting was called to order by the Secretary *pro tem.*; Mr. Thomas G. Brown was elected Chairman and Mr. Archibald B. Sayer, Secretary.

The following persons, members of the Corporation, present: Mrs. Emily Austin, Miss Annie R. Coggeshall, John H. Cozzens, Stuyvesant LeRoy, Archibald B. Sayer, Joshua Sayer, George H. Carr, William R. Hunter, David King, LeRoy King, Thomas G. Brown, Robert C. Cottrell, J. G. Spingler, Mrs. Ruth R. Sherman, V. Mott Francis, Clarence A. Carr, Miss

Annie E. King, Philip Rider, Galen Davis, Walter L. Kane, George C. Mason, Daniel B. Fearing, Dr. E. L. Cunningham, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Hayden, George G. King, John Ireys, William J. Cozzens, Miss E. Ruth Greene.

The records of the last annual meeting and of the special meeting of July 31, 1890, read and approved.

Owing to the inability of the Corporation officials to obtain the regular minutes of a special meeting of the Corporation, held June 5, 1890, the following resolutions were offered by Mr. David King, seconded by Mr. LeRoy King, and passed:

Resolved: that whereas a meeting of the Corporation was held, pursuant to notice, on the 5th of June, and there appears to be no record of the proceedings of the said meeting.

Resolved: that a record of the proceedings at said meeting, compiled from the recollections and memoranda of members there present, as just read, be accepted and recorded as the business transacted by the Corporation at said meeting.

Pursuant to the above resolutions, the records of said meeting of June 5, 1890, stand as follows, viz.:

"A meeting of the Corporation of Trinity Church was held in Kay Chapel on Thursday, June 5, 1890, at 3 o'clock p. m.

"The following members of the Corporation were present: George C. Mason, John H. Cozzens, W. E. Dennis, H. D. DeBlois, Philip Rider, W. L. Kane, John Ireys, V. Mott Francis, T. R. Helme, D. B. Fearing, A. B. Sayer, W. R. Hunter, George H. Carr, Galen Davis, Robert Cottrell, T. G. Brown, Henry Bull, J. G. Spingler, Rodman Cornell, William Gilpin, John J. Bliss, H. A. C. Taylor, W. J. Cozzens, Miss A. R. Coggeshall, Mrs. William Carry, Mrs. E. C. Hayden, Mrs. Sheldon, Miss Ruth Greene, Mrs. R. R. Sherman, Mrs. William M. Austin, Mrs. Safford.

"Rector in the chair.

"William E. Dennis, Secretary.

"The meeting was opened with prayer.

"The Moderator then read the following notice, which had been given in the Church the previous Sunday, June 1st.

"A meeting of the Corporation of this Church will be held on Thursday afternoon, June 5th, at 3 o'clock in Kay Chapel. The object of the meeting is to receive the report of the committee appointed to examine the credentials of certain voters at the Easter meeting, to rectify whatever was irregular at that meeting, and to transact such other business as may be brought before the Corporation.'

"It was moved by T. R. Helme that Rodman Cornell be chairman of the meeting.

"The Moderator ruled this motion out of order, on the ground that the Rector being present it was his duty, according to the provision of the Charter, to preside.

"Moved by T. R. Helme, that a committee of three be appointed to obtain the opinion of the Bishop and Standing Committee of the Diocese, as to whether there is a Rector of Trinity Church, or not.

"Moved in amendment by D. B. Fearing, that it is the sense of the Corporation that the Rev. G. J. Magill is the Rector of Trinity Church.

"This amendment was carried by a vote of 19 to 5.

"At this point Mr. Henry Bull protested against the Rev. G. J. Magill presiding at the meeting. The Moderator instructed the Secretary to make a note of the protest.

"The minutes of the Easter meeting, April 6th, being called for, were read by the Secretary.

"On motion of Philip Rider, it was resolved that the minutes just read be rescinded and the action of the Easter meeting be re-considered.

"On motion, the following Wardens and Vestrymen were elected:

“LeRoy King, Senior Warden.

“Thomas G. Brown, Junior Warden.

“1st Vestryman, Benjamin Finch; 2d, John H. Cozzens; 3d, Walter L. Kane; 4th, Philip Rider; 5th, V. Mott Francis; 6th, George G. King; 7th, William R. Hunter; 8th, D. B. Fearing; 9th, David Pinniger; 10th, George H. Carr; 11th, Robert C. Cottrell.

“Robert C. Cottrell, Secretary.

“Philip Rider, Treasurer.

“The tax for the current year was fixed at 20 per cent.

“For music the sum of \$2000 was appropriated.

“The following resolution offered by V. Mott Francis was seconded by Walter L. Kane:

“‘Resolved: that the Junior Warden, Secretary and Treasurer of the Vestry be a committee to prepare and present to every meeting of the Corporation a certified list of corporators who are entitled to vote.’

“Moved by V. Mott Francis and seconded by Walter L. Kane:

“‘Resolved: that in future the annual dividend accruing from the Poor Fund be paid over to the Rector, to be distributed according to his discretion.’

“Moved by V. Mott Francis, and seconded by Walter L. Kane:

“‘Resolved: that a committee of three be appointed by the Chairman, to petition at the next session of the State Legislature, that it grant the following amendments to the Charter of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I., viz.:

“‘That Section I. of the Charter be amended so that the Corporation may be enabled to hold property to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars.

“‘That Section III. be amended so that wherever the words “Easter Monday” occur there shall be substituted for those

words, "the last Monday in June"; and that the word "eleven," which designates the number of the Vestrymen, be changed to "seven."

"That Section IV. of the Charter be amended so that wherever the words "Easter Monday" occur, there shall be substituted for them the words "the last Monday in June."

"That in Section I. of the Act of Amendment of the Charter, passed in June, 1847, the words, "who profess to worship in the Protestant Episcopal Church," shall be stricken out, and the words, "who attend public worship in said Church," be inserted in their stead.

"The committee appointed under the above Resolutions to consist of Messrs. V. Mott Francis, Daniel B. Fearing and William R. Hunter.'

"On motion of Mr. Mason it was

"Resolved: that the Corporation of Trinity Church desire to give expression to their warm feelings of gratitude and respect for the Rector, Rev. George J. Magill, for his devoted zeal in behalf of this Parish, his consistent life and untiring efforts to increase its efficiency, and promote the prosperity of the Church over which he has so ably presided for a period of fourteen years.

"Resolved: that the Secretary be instructed to furnish the Rector, Rev. George J. Magill, with a copy of the above resolution.'

"At the suggestion of the Rector, it was

"Resolved: that William E. Dennis, John Ireys and David Pinniger, be a Committee on Music, to co-operate with the Rector.'

"The sum of five hundred dollars was voted to the Diocesan Episcopal Endowment Fund.

"William J. Cozzens and John Ireys were appointed the Auditing Committee.

“Delegates to the Diocesan Convention: John H. Cozzens, LeRoy King, George G. King, V. Mott Francis, Walter L. Kane.

“Substitutes: Rodman Cornell, George M. Dockray, Michael Callaghan.”

The above memoranda is attested by George C. Mason, Thomas G. Brown and Robert C. Cottrell.

The annual report of the Treasurer showed receipts for the year, including balance from last year, \$9409.55; disbursements, \$8306.36, and a balance on hand of \$1103.19. The report was read, received and ordered to be printed.

The annual report of the Junior Warden, showing unpaid taxes to the amount of \$1285.41 was read and received.

The following officers were elected to Easter, 1892:

LeRoy King, *Senior Warden*.

Thomas G. Brown, *Junior Warden*.

John H. Cozzens, Walter L. Kane, Philip Rider, V. Mott Francis, George G. King, Archibald B. Sayer, E. L. Cunningham, Robert C. Cottrell, George H. Carr, Clarence A. Carr, Cornelius Vanderbilt, *Vestrymen*.

George Gordon King, *Treasurer*.

Archibald B. Sayer, *Secretary*.

Philip Rider, Walter L. Kane, *Auditing Committee*.

John H. Cozzens, LeRoy King, Walter L. Kane, V. Mott Francis, George G. King, *Delegates to Convention*.

Archibald B. Sayer, George M. Dockray, Clarence A. Carr, Michael Callaghan, *Substitutes*.

William G. Schwarz was elected Sexton on the salary of the previous year, viz.: \$500 as Sexton, and \$125 for collecting taxes.

Organ blower: John B. Pengally, at the same salary as last year.

The Treasurer was instructed to pay the Church's proportion of the Bishop's salary and the Convention expenses.

Whereas, the Rev. George J. Magill was called as Rector of this Church, March 21, 1876, at a salary of \$4000, as appears of record; and whereas, on April 2, 1877, his salary was fixed at \$4500, and as said salary has never been legally altered, it is hereby voted: that the Treasurer be directed to pay the Rev. George J. Magill the sum of \$500, due him for the year commencing Easter, 1890, and ending Easter, 1891, in addition to the \$4000 he has already been paid.

The following letter was presented by Mr. LeRoy King:

To the Corporation of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I.:

Gentlemen:

It has come to my knowledge that some members of your honorable body consider the salary of the Rector to be more than he ought to receive.

I do not know whether this feeling arises from the poverty of your resources, or from a disposition to give me a smaller stipend than has been pledged to me.

But whatever may be the reason, and how small soever the number of those who are swayed by it, I consider it due to myself, as a Christian gentleman, to say that I would be ashamed to accept from you in the way of a support what you are unable or unwilling to give, and that any re-adjustment of my salary you please to make shall receive my cordial consent.

Very sincerely yours,

G. J. MAGILL,
Rector.

Newport, R. I., March 28, 1891.

The following resolution was then presented and adopted:

Whereas, the Rector, by his generous letter, just read, has consented to leave to the Corporation the fixing the amount of his salary; and, Whereas, it is the desire of the Corporation to deal as generously with him as the funds of the Church admit of; therefore

Be it voted: that from this time forth the Rector's salary

shall be fixed at the sum of four thousand five hundred dollars, per annum, less the city tax assessed yearly upon the Rectory, to be paid by the Corporation.

Voted: that the management of the music be placed in the hands of the Rector, and that \$1500 is hereby appropriated for the same.

Voted: that all the collections taken up at any of the services, and the income of the "Poor Fund," be placed at the disposition of the Rector.

Voted: that the Rector and the Wardens be a committee on the care of the Rectory.

Voted: to sell Corporation pew No. 73 to Lansing Zabriskie, for \$300.

Voted: that the tax for the year 1891-92 shall be 20 per cent. on the valuation of the pews, as formerly.

Voted: to sell at Public Auction pews Nos. 10, 21, 31, 42, 83, 91 and 5, lower floor, and Nos. 5, 10 and 19 in the South Gallery, for non-payment of taxes.

The following resolution was presented by V. Mott Francis, seconded by Walter L. Kane, and passed:

Resolved: that the "Endowment Fund of Trinity Church" be placed in the care of two trustees, to collect funds, receive subscriptions and bequests, and Church collections, and take charge of the fund until it reaches the amount of \$30,000 and to report annually to the Corporation the progress of the undertaking.

Resolved: that any vacancy occasioned by resignation, or in consequence of death or protracted illness, be filled by the Corporation.

Resolved: that the Corporation ask the Rector to take up a collection in Trinity Church, each Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter, until said \$30,000 is raised.

In accordance with the above, the following resolution, offered

by George C. Mason, seconded by Walter L. Kane, was passed:

Resolved: that V. Mott Francis and George Gordon King be the Trustees of the "Trinity Church Endowment Fund."

The committee appointed at the special meeting of the Corporation, held June 5, 1890, to procure certain changes in the Charter of Trinity Church, presented the following report and accompanying suggestions, which were read, received and adopted:

Newport, R. I., March 30, 1891.

We, the undersigned, a committee appointed at a meeting of the Corporation of Trinity Church, held June 5, 1890, in Kay Chapel, to obtain legislative action in regard to the changes to be made in the Charter of Trinity Church, as declared at the meeting to be the desire of the Corporation, beg leave to report, that legal counsel was sought and obtained in the person of Patrick J. Galvin, Esq., and arrangements made to accomplish this result; but after conversation with those well informed, and friendly to such legislation and to Trinity Church, it was deemed best to wait until the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, to ask for further instructions, as it seemed advisable to seek for other changes that appeared to be of as grave importance, so as to have all asked for at the same time. The committee discharged the counsel, and present account of fee due to him for professional services, namely, ten dollars (\$10), and ask that it be ordered paid, and that they be permitted to retire.

The committee, upon mature reflection, advise that the Rector and Wardens be appointed a committee to ascertain thoroughly what changes it is desirable to make, in addition to those already declared advisable by the Corporation, and to report them at a future meeting of the Corporation.

V. MOTT FRANCIS,
DANIEL B. FEARING,
W. R. HUNTER.

The bill of Patrick J. Galvin, Attorney, against the Corporation and accompanying the foregoing report, was ordered to be paid by the Treasurer.

Report of a special committee appointed at the last meeting of the Vestry, as follows, was read and accepted:

Newport, R. I., March 26, 1891.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

The committee to whom was referred a series of resolutions at the Vestry meeting of December 19, 1890, would respectfully recommend that the matter be referred to the Wardens and Vestrymen, as provided in Section II. of the Charter.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. COZZENS,
ARCHIBALD B. SAYER,
T. G. BROWN.

The following resolution was presented by V. Mott Francis, seconded by George Gordon King, and passed:

Resolved: that in future all resolutions must be in writing, and have the name of the mover and seconder attached to the same.

The following preamble and resolution, appropriate to the retirement of Mr. Benjamin Finch from the Vestry of this Church, after many years of service, was presented by V. Mott Francis, seconded by George C. Mason, and unanimously adopted:

Newport, R. I., March 30, 1891.

Whereas, Benjamin Finch, Esq., our respected Senior Vestryman, has declined a re-election to the position he has filled for so many years with dignity and honor to himself and Trinity Church, we, the Corporation, feel it due to him and to ourselves, to place on record, that we only accept his resignation upon his repeated and firm refusal to hold the office any longer;

Resolved: that the Corporation of Trinity Church part from him in his official capacity with a keen sense of the loss we sustain, in being deprived of his valuable services and unimpeachable integrity.

Resolved: that the Corporation unanimously vote their thanks to him, for his life-long fidelity to the welfare and interests of Trinity Church.

Resolved: that a copy of these resolutions be printed in the three principal newspapers of this city, and that an engrossed copy be sent to him.

The following resolution was also presented on the retirement of Philip Rider, Esq., from the treasuryship, after faithful service for several years:

Newport, R. I., March 30, 1891.

Whereas, Philip Rider, Esq., our faithful Treasurer, declines a re-election to that office;

Resolved: that the Corporation of Trinity Church desires to thank him for his conscientious performance of the duties that office creates, as well as for his uniform courtesy and his fidelity to the interests of Trinity Church.

The above resolution was presented by V. Mott Francis, seconded by George Gordon King.

April 6, 1891. Meeting of the Vestry. The Rector in the chair, and the meeting opened with prayer.

Present: Messrs. Philip Rider, J. H. Cozzens, George H. Carr, A. B. Sayer, Thomas G. Brown, Clarence A. Carr, LeRoy King, V. M. Francis, George G. King, Robert C. Cottrell.

Minutes of Vestry Meeting, December 19, 1890, read and approved.

The Senior Warden announced that the funds were low, and, as there would be no income from taxes until July 1st, and with the disbursements ordered by the Corporation and such current bills as might accrue, the additional sum of two thousand dollars would be required.

Moved by Thomas G. Brown, and seconded by LeRoy King: that the sum of \$2000 be hired for the term of four months, and it was so voted.

It was moved by Mr. LeRoy King and seconded by Mr. Cozzens: that a committee of the Vestry, consisting of the Junior Warden and the Secretary, be appointed to examine the stocks and deposit books of the Corporation, and pass them over to the Treasurer, and report at the next meeting of the Vestry the result of their action; and it was so voted.

It was moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by V. Mott Francis: that the Secretary be a committee to write to the officers of the Providence Telephone Company, and demand the immediate removal of the wires attached to Trinity Church; and it was so voted.

It was moved by Mr. Thomas G. Brown, seconded by Mr. George H. Carr, and so voted: that the unpaid taxes on pews numbers 4, 17, 33 and 24 on the lower floor, No. 8 in North Gallery and No. 5 in South Gallery, be remitted.

Moved by Thomas G. Brown, seconded by Robert C. Cottrell, and voted: that the Treasurer send a check for \$20 to Miss S. E. Blatchford, and that the Secretary communicate with Miss Blatchford, exonerating Mr. Schwarz from any intention to overcharge her.

June 5, 1891. Meeting of the Vestry; the Rector in the chair. Meeting opened with prayer. Present: Messrs. V. Mott Francis, Walter L. Kane, Robert C. Cottrell, George H. Carr, Thomas G. Brown, George Gordon King, Dr. E. L. Cunningham, Archibald B. Sayer, LeRoy King and John H. Cozzens.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved.

The following report, certificate and affidavit were received:

The Junior Warden respectfully reports the sale of certain pews in Trinity Church, Newport, R. I., at public auction, at said Church, twelve o'clock, noon, Monday, June 1, 1891, as certified by Mr. Fred W. Greene, auctioneer, in conformity to

the resolution passed by the Corporation of Trinity Church, at the meeting on Easter Monday, March 30, 1891, authorizing the sale of certain pews, for the satisfaction of unpaid taxes.

T. G. BROWN, Junior Warden.

Newport, June 1, 1891.

Account of sale of six pews in Trinity Church at public auction, on Monday, June 1, 1891, at twelve o'clock, on the premises; per order of Thomas G. Brown, Junior Warden; and I hereby certify that I sold the aforesaid pews as follows:

Pew No. 10, to Miss Annie R. Coggeshall,	\$53.00
Pew No. 31, to M. W. Callaghan,	53.00
Pew No. 91, to Mrs. J. T. Langley,	61.00
Pew No. 83, to V. Mott Francis,	32.00
Pew No. 10, (Gallery) to J. McP. Creighton,	7.50
Pew No. 19, to Mrs. A. B. Sayer,	8.00

\$214.50

Condition of said sale, cash in ten days, on transfer of deeds.

FRED W. GREENE, Auctioneer.

I further depose and say that due notice of the time and place of holding said sale was duly published in the "Newport Mercury," a newspaper published in the city of Newport, for three weeks preceding said sale; viz., on May 2, May 9, May 16, May 23 and May 30, A. D. 1891, which notice was as follows:

FRED W. GREENE, Auctioneer.

"Notice. Whereas, there has been assessed against the pews in Trinity Church, Newport, Rhode Island, hereinafter named, a tax by the Minister, Church Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church, in Newport, and whereas: Notice of the tax assessed as aforesaid has been duly given to the respective owners of said pews, according to the Charter of said Corporation, and, whereas, the said owners respectively have neglected to pay their respective taxes assessed against the said several pews, for more than three months after said notice, and said default still continuing; and, whereas, said Corporation, at a meeting held on Monday, March 30, A. D. 1891, duly ordered

the said pews to be sold at public auction, for the payment and discharge of said taxes and costs;

There will be sold at public auction in Trinity Church, Newport, R. I., on Monday, June 1, A. D. 1891, commencing at twelve o'clock, noon, all the following pews in said Trinity Church: pews numbered 10 in north aisle; 21, 31, 91 in south aisle; 83 in middle aisle, and pews numbers 10 and 19 in South Gallery.

By order of said Corporation:

THOMAS G. BROWN, Junior Warden.

Newport, April 14, 1891.

State of Rhode Island, &c., }
County of Newport. } sc.

At Newport in said county and state, this third day of June, A. D. 1891, personally appeared the above-named Fred W. Greene, and made oath to the truth of the foregoing statement by him subscribed, before me,

CHARLES ACTON IVES,
Notary Public.

The following resolutions offered by Mr. LeRoy King, Senior Warden, and seconded by Mr. Thomas G. Brown, Junior Warden, were then passed:

Resolved: that the affidavit of Mr. Fred W. Greene, Auctioneer, be received and placed on record.

Resolved: that the Wardens, in their official capacity, be authorized to execute proper deeds of pews in Trinity Church, Newport, R. I., numbered 10, 31, 91, 83, lower floor, and 10 and 19 in gallery, transferring the pews to the purchasers at the auction sale held at Trinity Church, Monday, June 1, 1891, as certified by Fred W. Greene, Auctioneer.

Whereas, at the sale of pews at public auction, held at Trinity Church, June 1, 1891, pew No. 83 on the lower floor, and pew number 19 in the gallery of said Church, did not realize the amount of tax assessed against them, therefore

Resolved: that the balance of assessment remaining unpaid upon pew 83 on the lower floor be credited and charged to profit and loss, and the unpaid balance of tax on pew 19 in the gallery be charged against John J. Bliss, the previous owner.

Resolved: that the Treasurer be authorized to pay the bill of William J. Underwood, amounting to one hundred and fifty-two dollars (\$152.00) for new drain at Kay Chapel connecting with sewer.

It was moved by J. H. Cozzens and seconded by V. Mott Francis: that the Junior Warden be authorized to make such repairs as are necessary to the gravestones in Trinity Church cemetery.

The following report was read and ordered recorded:

Newport, R. I., April 6, 1891.

To the Vestry of Trinity Church;

Gentlemen: Pursuant to a vote of your honorable body, we, the undersigned, special committee, appointed to investigate certain stocks and deposits, and turn them over to the Treasurer, would report as follows:

On the evening of April 6, 1891, we examined and turned over to Mr. George Gordon King, Treasurer, the following stocks, &c.:

30 shares, Newport National Bank certificates,	\$32.00
78 shares, Union National Bank certificates,	170.00
8 shares, Union National Bank certificates,	171.00
10 shares, Merchants Bank certificates,	210.00
10 shares, National Bank of R. I.,	8.00
Savings Bank, Newport, Littlefield Fund, Feb. 9, 1891,	2223.84
Savings Bank, Newport, Trinity Church Poor Fund, Jan. 21, 1891,	1800.00
Union National Bank, April 4, 1891, balance,	1103.19

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS G. BROWN,
ARCHIBALD B. SAYER,
Committee.

The following note from Miss S. E. Blatchford was read and ordered to be recorded:

Mr. Sayer;

Sir: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your check for \$20.00 on account of Trinity Church, and thank you for the same. I have held Mr. Schwarz in no manner responsible for the delay, for I know a meeting of the Vestry was necessary in the matter. Mr. Schwarz told me the refunding of the amount depended on whether the pew should be rented this winter, which I thought was a mistake.

Very truly yours,

S. E. BLATCHFORD.

37 Catherine street,
April 7, 1891.

A number of small bills were ordered to be paid.

The committee on removal of Electric Telephone wires from Trinity Church, made verbal report that the wires had been removed.

October 20, 1891. Meeting of the Vestry; the Rector in the chair. Meeting opened with prayer. Present: Messrs. LeRoy King, T. G. Brown, J. H. Cozzens, W. L. Kane, George Gordon King, R. C. Cottrell, G. H. Carr and C. A. Carr.

Minutes of June 5, 1891, read and approved.

A number of small bills were ordered to be paid.

Voted, on motion of Mr. LeRoy King, seconded by Mr. John H. Cozzens: that the Treasurer be authorized to borrow \$1000, or less in his discretion.

Voted, on motion of J. H. Cozzens, seconded by G. G. King: that the placing of a water-closet in the rear of Kay Chapel be left in the hands of the Senior and Junior Wardens, with power to act.

The Rector called the attention of the Vestry to the poor condition of the organ in Kay Chapel, and it was voted, upon

the motion of the Senior Warden, seconded by Walter L. Kane: that the Rector hire, at his discretion, a cabinet organ for a period of six months, for Kay Chapel.

The sum of one hundred dollars was voted for the usual Christmas decorations, to be expended under Mr. C. A. Carr.

Voted, on motion of T. G. Brown, seconded by R. C. Cottrell: that pew No. 17 be rented to Mrs. Chace for one year, at \$25.00, and that the balance of tax remaining unpaid be charged to profit and loss.

January 25, 1892. Meeting of the Vestry; the Senior Warden in the chair. Present: LeRoy King, Senior Warden; Thomas G. Brown, Junior Warden; and Messrs. John H. Cozzens, Walter L. Kane, V. Mott Francis, George G. King, Archibald B. Sayer, Robert C. Cottrell and George H. Carr.

Dr. V. Mott Francis was appointed a committee to secure plans and an estimate of the cost of a water-closet.

March 14, 1892. Meeting of the Vestry; the Rector in the chair. Present: Thomas G. Brown, Junior Warden; and Messrs. John H. Cozzens, Walter L. Kane, V. Mott Francis, Archibald B. Sayer, Robert C. Cottrell and George H. Carr.

The Rector stated that the meeting was called for the purpose of granting the usual testimonial to Thomas H. Yardley, a postulant, who desires to become a candidate for Holy Orders in this Diocese.

Moved by Walter L. Kane and seconded by Dr. V. Mott Francis: that the Vestry proceed to sign the testimonial of Mr. Thomas H. Yardley, who is applying to the Standing Committee, to be recommended by them to the Bishop of the Diocese, as a candidate for the Holy Ministry. So voted.

The usual form was then duly filled, signed and attested by the Parish Clerk.

April 18, 1892. Annual Meeting of the Corporation. LeRoy

King was elected chairman, and Archibald B. Sayer, Secretary. Present: Miss Elizabeth M. Sherman, Miss Medora Francis, Miss Annie R. Coggeshall, Clarence A. Carr, John H. Cozzens, Miss Annie E. King, Philip Rider, Archibald B. Sayer, George C. Mason, George Gordon King, LeRoy King, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Hayden, Dr. V. Mott Francis, Thomas G. Brown, Robert C. Cottrell, J. G. Spingler, Mrs. Ruth R. Sherman, Mrs. Sarah Anna Sayer.

Annual report of the Treasurer read, received and ordered printed.

Annual report of the Junior Warden read and approved.

The following officers were then elected:

LeRoy King, *Senior Warden*.

Thomas G. Brown, *Junior Warden*.

John H. Cozzens, Walter L. Kane, Philip Rider, V. Mott Francis, George Gordon King, Archibald B. Sayer, Robert C. Cottrell, George H. Carr, Clarence A. Carr, Daniel B. Fearing, William R. Hunter, *Vestrymen*.

Archibald B. Sayer, *Secretary*.

George Gordon King, *Treasurer*.

Walter L. Kane, Robert C. Cottrell, Clarence A. Carr, *Auditing Committee*.

John H. Cozzens, LeRoy King, Walter L. Kane, V. Mott Francis, George Gordon King, *Delegates to Convention*.

Archibald B. Sayer, George M. Dockray, Clarence A. Carr, Michael W. Callaghan, *Alternates*.

Delegates to "Newport Convocation" same as those to Diocesan Convention.

The tax was fixed at 20 per cent. on the valuation.

Fifteen hundred dollars were appropriated for music.

The report of the Special Committee on revising Charter was read and received:

AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER OF TRINITY CHURCH,
IN NEWPORT.

It is enacted by the General Assembly, as follows :

Section 1. That Section 1 of said Charter be and the same is hereby amended, to read as follows:

Section 1. Be it therefore enacted, that the Rector, Church Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of said Church, be and they and their successors forever are hereby made and constituted and confirmed to be, a body politic, with perpetual successors, by the name of the Rector, Church Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church in Newport, and by that name shall be able and capable in law, to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, to answer and to be answered unto, to defend and be defended against, in all courts and places and before all proper Judges whomsoever; to take, receive and hold all monies and other property, real or personal, by voluntary subscription, contribution, donation or otherwise; and also all legacies and devises of real and personal estate, and also to have, acquire, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods and chattels and property of every description, not exceeding in the whole two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and all and singular the estate and property aforesaid; to lease, grant, convey or dispose of in such manner as they may judge best for the interest of said Corporation; to have and use a common seal, and the same to alter or renew at pleasure, with full power and authority to make and ordain all said laws, rules and ordinances for the government of the Corporation, and the better management of the affairs thereof, as they, or the major part of them, who may be present, on due notification, may deem necessary and proper, provided the same be not repugnant to the laws of the State and Constitution and laws of the United States.

Section 2. That Section 3 of said Charter be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there shall be an annual meeting of said Corporation on Easter Monday, yearly and every year at which meeting there

shall, and at any other meeting there may be, if vacancies should happen, elected two Church Wardens, who shall be *ex-officio* Vestrymen, seven other Vestrymen, one of whom shall be Secretary and also Clerk of the Vestry, and such other officers as may be judged necessary. And that legal meetings of said Corporation may be called at any time, by the Rector of said Trinity Church, by either of the Church Wardens, by any five Vestrymen, or any ten members of said Corporation; and at any of the meetings aforesaid, any of the affairs and business of said Corporation may be attended to, transacted and performed.

And although said Corporation should not, from any cause or circumstance whatever, hold their annual meeting on Easter Monday yearly, and every year hereafter, yet this act shall nevertheless continue to be in full force; and officers may be elected and the affairs and business of said Corporation may be transacted and performed at any subsequent meeting which may be called in either of the modes before stated.

Section 3. That Section 6 of said Charter be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 6. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Rector of said Church shall be elected by the Corporation aforesaid, at a meeting of said Corporation legally called.

Section 4. That Section 7 of said Charter is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 7. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Rector shall be *ex-officio* a member of said Corporation, and when present Moderator thereof at all meetings of the same. That he shall have a right at any time to inspect the books and records of the Corporation. That it shall be his right and duty, from time to time, to state verbally or in writing the condition of the affairs of the Corporation, and to recommend such measures as he deems advisable for its benefit, to the meetings of the Wardens and Vestrymen, at which meetings the Rector, or in his absence one of the Church Wardens or Senior Vestryman present, shall be Moderator. And in all meetings of said Wardens and Vestrymen five members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum, each member being entitled

to one vote, excepting the Moderator, who shall be only entitled to give the casting vote.

On the motion of Archibald B. Sayer, seconded by Dr. V. Mott Francis, it was unanimously voted to petition the General Assembly of this State to grant the proposed Amendments to the Charter.

The following letter was read, received and referred to the Vestry:

Newport, R. I., April 28, 1892.

To the Corporation of Trinity Church:

It becomes my duty at this time to call your attention to the matter of Pew number 31.

The title to said pew was passed to me several months ago by deed properly acknowledged and recorded in the records of your Corporation.

Shortly after the title had vested in me, one Mary R. Sayer forcibly entered into and upon said pew, and removed and carried off a lock, which I had caused to be placed on the door of the same.

Mrs. Sayer has maintained possession of said pew to this day; I am therefore compelled to demand of your Corporation that proper action may be at once taken against Mrs. Sayer, whereby she shall be ousted from the possession of my said pew.

Yours very respectfully,

MICHAEL W. CALLAGHAN.

Moved by V. Mott Francis, seconded by George Gordon King, and voted: that the Vestry be instructed to procure an organ to be placed in Kay Chapel, as soon as in their judgment the funds shall warrant the expenditure.

Annual Report of the Trustees of the Endowment Fund of Trinity Church, appointed by the Corporation of Trinity Church, March 30, 1891:

The Trustees respectfully report that the fund, on the 30th

of March, 1891, on deposit in the Savings Bank of Newport, R. I., amounted at that time to	\$83.59
Dividend, July, 1890, not written up,	1.25
Dividend, January, 1891, not written up,	1.68

Total amount of the Endowment Fund at the time the Trustees were appointed, \$86.52

Amount of private contributions since March 30, 1891, to date, 57.06

Collections taken in Trinity Church since March 30, 1891, to date:

April 19, 1891,	\$27.48	
July 18, 1891,	125.12	
October 18, 1891,	77.94	
January 17, 1892,	19.69	
April 10, 1892,	31.31	281.54
Dividend, July, 1891,	1.88	
Dividend, January, 1892,	4.44	6.32

Total amount on deposit, \$431.44

Increase of Endowment Fund this year, \$344.92

The Trustees see the importance of the fund more than ever, and although the increase has not been as rapid as they could wish, or as it ought to have been in their opinion, feel that there is assurance of its ultimate success, and earnestly urge the members of the Church to take active interest in the matter.

The Trustees cannot close their report without expressing their deep regret (in which they believe that the Corporation, and communicants of the Church, will sincerely share) at the death of Mr. Lansing Zabriskie, a corporator whose liberal donation to and deep interest in the Fund, and kindness of heart, gave every promise of generous financial aid in the future.

Respectfully submitted to the Corporation of Trinity Church,

V. MOTT FRANCIS,
GEORGE GORDON KING,

April 18, 1892.

Trustees.

Moved by George Gordon King, seconded by Thomas G. Brown, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, a movement has been made by the Rector and the Guilds of this Parish, to raise a fund for the erection of a Guild House, and owing to their exertion about \$10,000, including pledges, have been secured for that purpose, therefore

1. Resolved: that we, the Corporation of Trinity Church, hereby express our approval of this effort, and desire to co-operate with those who have been engaged in it.

2. That we authorize the Vestry to take such steps as they may deem advisable to make the undertaking a part of the recognized work of the Corporation; by holding and investing such funds as may now or hereafter be intrusted to them, and by inaugurating such measures as will insure the completion of an enterprise so important to the welfare of the Parish.

May 2, 1892. Meeting of the Vestry. Present: the Rector, Wardens, and the following Vestrymen: Messrs. John H. Cozens, V. Mott Francis, George Gordon King, Archibald B. Sayer, Robert C. Cottrell, George H. Carr, Clarence A. Carr and Daniel B. Fearing.

The meeting was opened with prayer, and the minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

On motion of Mr. LeRoy King and seconded by Mr. Fearing, it was voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to hire \$1000, at his discretion, for four months.

The Secretary moved, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, and it was voted: that one hundred dollars be appropriated for decorations for the current year, instead of the customary appropriation made for Christmas of each year; said sum to be placed at the disposal of a joint committee of the Vestry and the Altar Committee of the Parish, and to be disbursed by the Treasurer upon vote of the Vestry, after the bills contracted under this resolution have been duly approved by the said joint committee. The committee shall consist of one Vestryman, and one member of the Altar Committee.

On motion of Mr. Cottrell, seconded by Mr. LeRoy King, it was voted: that the Secretary be the member of the joint committee on the part of the Vestry.

On motion of the Secretary, seconded by Dr. Francis, it was voted: that as soon as practicable, after the passage of the amendments to the Charter of the Corporation, the Secretary be empowered to procure from the Secretary of State a certified copy of the Charter as it is now since the passage of the before-mentioned amendments.

The letter from Michael W. Callaghan, Esq., which was referred by the Corporation to the Vestry, with power to act, was read, and, after some discussion, it was moved by Mr. Fearing, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, and voted: that the Wardens be a committee to settle the difficulty with regard to Pew No. 31.

On motion of Dr. Francis, seconded by T. G. Brown, voted: that the rebate of 5 per cent. on the tax be discontinued from this time.

Moved by Thomas G. Brown, seconded by Daniel B. Fearing, it was voted; that all money received by the Sexton, from rental of pews or collection of taxes, be paid to the Junior Warden to the credit of the pew-owners; any sum in excess of taxes then due to be refunded by the Warden.

Voted, on motion of Thomas G. Brown, seconded by George Gordon King: that the Wardens be a committee to employ an expert to examine the floors and sills of Trinity Church.

Voted, on motion of Mr. LeRoy King, seconded by Mr. Fearing: that a committee, consisting of the Treasurer, Junior Warden, and Robert C. Cottrell, be appointed to confer with the Rector and Guild committee, relative to the resolution passed by the Corporation in relation to a Guild House, and to report at a future meeting.

June 11, 1892. Meeting of the Vestry; the Rector, Ward-

ens and following Vestrymen present: John H. Cozzens, Walter L. Kane, V. Mott Francis, George Gordon King, A. B. Sayer, George H. Carr.

The minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

The special committee to confer with the Guild of the Parish reported verbally, through Mr. Brown, the Junior Warden; that the wish of the Guild committee was that the funds should be turned over to the Corporation, and the work to be carried on by that body.

The special committee to examine the sills and floor of the Church reported they were in better condition than had been expected.

The committee on Pew No. 31, south aisle, reported that they had arranged for a settlement of the difficulty.

It was voted, on motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Dr. Francis: that the repairs and cleaning of Kay Chapel be left with the Wardens.

On motion of Dr. Francis, seconded by Mr. George Gordon King, it was unanimously voted: that a committee of three, consisting of the Senior and Junior Wardens, with Mr. Walter L. Kane, solicit subscriptions to the extent of \$6000 for a guild house, and to report to the Vestry within four months, what money they have in hand.

October 1, 1892. Meeting of the Vestry. Present: the Rector and Senior Warden, with the following Vestrymen: John H. Cozzens, Dr. V. Mott Francis, George G. King, and R. C. Cottrell.

Minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

The committee appointed June 11, 1892, to solicit subscriptions for a guild house, reported that they had in hand over \$1200, and that they desire further time before reporting in detail the amounts given, and the hope of having more money donated.

Voted, on motion of V. Mott Francis, seconded by Robert

C. Cottrell: that the report be accepted, and the committee have the extension of time they desire.

On motion of V. Mott Francis, seconded by Robert C. Cottrell, voted: that the Treasurer be authorized to borrow seven hundred and fifty dollars for four months.



RECTOR OF TRINITY CHURCH.*

Rey. George J. Magill, D. D., 1876 to —

SENIOR WARDEN OF TRINITY CHURCH.*

LeRoy King, 1889 to —

JUNIOR WARDENS OF TRINITY CHURCH.*

Rodman Cornell, 1886 to 1890.

Thomas G. Brown, 1890 “ —

* A continuation of the record in the first volume of the “ANNALS.”

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

1894.

Rector :

REV. GEORGE J. MAGILL, D. D.

LEROY KING, *Senior Warden.*

THOMAS G. BROWN, *Junior Warden.*

Vestrymen :

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. JOHN H. COZZENS. | 2. V. MOTT FRANCIS. |
| 3. GEORGE GORDON KING. | 4. ARCHIBALD B. SAYER. |
| 5. ROBERT C. COTTRELL. | 6. DANIEL B. FEARING. |
| 7. WILLIAM R. HUNTER. | |

ARCHIBALD B. SAYER, *Secretary.*

GEORGE GORDON KING, *Treasurer.*

Auditing Committee :

WILLIAM J. COZZENS,	WILLIAM D. SAYER,
JEREMIAH I. GREENE.	

Delegates to Diocesan Convention and Newport Convocation :

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. JOHN H. COZZENS. | 2. LEROY KING. |
| 3. V. MOTT FRANCIS. | 4. GEORGE GORDON KING. |
| 5. ARCHIBALD B. SAYER. | |

Substitutes :

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. WALTER L. KANE. | 2. EDWIN D. MORGAN. |
| 3. C. H. STOCKTON, U. S. N. | 4. GEORGE M. DOCKRAY. |
| 5. WILLIAM H. COFFIN. | |

IRVING P. IRONS, *Choirmaster.*

ALFRED G. LANGLEY, *Organist.*

WILLIAM G. SCHWARZ, *Sexton.*

JOHN B. PENGALLY, *Organ Blower.*

CHARTER OF TRINITY CHURCH.

[AS AMENDED TO JANUARY, 1892.]

WHEREAS, the *Minister, Church-Wardens, Vestry and Congregation* of TRINITY CHURCH in Newport, have preferred a Petition unto this General Assembly, and for the reasons therein assigned, have prayed this Assembly to alter, amend and enlarge their original Charter of Incorporation, granted them in the Year 1769, and to extend the powers and provisions thereof, so as to suit the present state of the concerns; to enable them, with greater convenience, to manage and secure the Property and Funds of which they are now, or may be hereafter possessed, and to promote and establish the Worship of Almighty God, according to the discipline, rites, canons, usages, ceremonies and liturgy of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the United States of America:—

SECTION I. *Be it therefore Enacted*, That the Rector, Church Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of said Church, be and they and their successors forever are hereby made and constituted and confirmed to be, a body corporate and politic, with perpetual succession, by the name of the Rector, Church Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church in Newport, and by that name shall be able and capable in law, to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, to answer and to be answered unto, to defend and to be defended against, in all courts and places and before all proper Judges whomsoever; to take, receive and hold all monies

and other property, real or personal, by voluntary subscription, contribution, donation or otherwise; and also all legacies and devises of real and personal estate, and also to have, acquire, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods and chattels and property of every description, not exceeding in the whole two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and all and singular the estate and property aforesaid; to lease, grant, convey or dispose of in such manner as they may judge best for the interest of said Corporation; to have and use a common seal, and the same to alter or renew at pleasure, with full power and authority to make and ordain all such laws, rules and ordinances for the government of the Corporation, and the better management of the affairs thereof, as they, or the major part of them, who may be present, on due notification, may deem necessary and proper, provided the same be not repugnant to the laws of this State and Constitution and laws of the United States.

SEC. II.—*And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That all the funds and property now owned or possessed by said Corporation, be and the same is hereby vested in, confirmed to, and continued in the same Corporation.

SEC. III.—*And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That there shall be an annual meeting of said Corporation on Easter Monday, yearly and every year, at which meeting there shall, and at any other legal meeting there may be, if vacancies should happen, elected two Church Wardens, who shall be *ex-officio* Vestrymen, seven other Vestrymen, one of whom shall be Secretary and also Clerk of the Vestry, and such other officers as may be judged necessary. And that legal meetings of said Corporation may be called at any time, by the Rector of said Trinity Church, by either of the Church Wardens, by any five Vestrymen, or any ten members of said Corporation; and at any of the meetings aforesaid, any of the affairs and business of said Corporation may be attended to, transacted and performed. And although said Corporation should not, from any cause or circumstance whatever, hold their annual meeting on Easter Monday yearly, and every year hereafter, yet this Act shall nevertheless continue and be in full force; and officers may be elected

and the affairs and business of said Corporation may be transacted and performed at any subsequent meeting which may be called in either of the modes before stated.

SEC. IV.—*And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the Church Wardens and Vestrymen elected by said Corporation, shall for the time being, have the entire and sole control, management and disposition of all the property and funds of said Corporation, in trust nevertheless, and for the use of said Corporation, for the sole support and promotion of the public worship of God, as in the preamble of this Act expressed, for defraying the incidental expenses thereof, and for the repairs of the Church edifice and its appurtenances. That the said Corporation shall on Easter Monday annually, or oftener if it should become necessary, for the security of the property and funds aforesaid, elect a Treasurer, who shall keep fair and accurate accounts of the property and funds aforesaid, and of the management and disposition of the same; and shall attend when required, and shall have a right at all times to attend the meetings of the Vestry, and shall at every annual meeting on Easter Monday, make a written statement, or report of the same, to the said Corporation; and shall when required by a vote of said Corporation, or by a vote of said Church Wardens and Vestrymen, make further statements and reports of the same, and shall produce the books, vouchers and documents, containing the accounts and statements of the property and funds aforesaid, and the use, management and disposition of the same, which shall be open to their inspection and examination. And the Treasurer, previous to entering on the duties of his office, shall annually give satisfactory bonds to the said Corporation, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his said office.

SEC. V.—*And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That each male owner of a pew in Trinity Church in Newport, or lessee or hirer of the same for one year, or a longer time, and who professes to attend public worship therein, shall be a member of said Corporation, and be entitled to appear and vote in all Corporation meetings, and that in all such meetings, eleven members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

SEC. VI.—*And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid,*

That the Rector of said Church shall be elected by the Corporation aforesaid, at a meeting of said Corporation legally called.

SEC. VII.—*And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the Rector shall be *ex-officio* a member of said Corporation, and when present Moderator thereof at all meetings of the same. That he shall have a right at any time to inspect the books and records of the Corporation. That it shall be his right and duty, from time to time, to state verbally or in writing the condition of the affairs of the Corporation, and to recommend such measures as he deems advisable for its benefit, to the meetings of the Wardens and Vestrymen, at which meetings the Rector, or in his absence one of the Church Wardens, or Senior Vestry-Wardens and Vestrymen present, shall be Moderator. And in all meetings of said Wardens and Vestrymen five members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum, each member being entitled to one vote, excepting the Moderator, who shall be only entitled to give the casting vote.

SEC. VIII.—*And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That all donations made, or that may be made to said Corporation, or that ensue, or may ensue to their use, shall be strictly used and applied according to the intentions and directions of the donors; and that all deeds and conveyances made by said Corporation, shall be made by the Treasurer thereof for the time being, when authorized by a recorded vote or resolution of the Wardens and Vestry, to which said deeds and conveyances the seal of said Corporation shall be affixed.

SEC. IX.—*And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That whenever any tax or proportion of money shall be assessed by order of said Corporation upon the pews of the said Church edifice, for the repairs of said edifice and its appurtenances, which are already or may hereafter be made, or for the expenses of said Corporation, such tax or proportion of money shall be paid by the several owners of such pews, agreeably to their respective assessments, and the rules and ordinances of said Corporation; and in case any owner as aforesaid shall, for the space of three months after the notice of any tax or proportion of money assessed as aforesaid, refuse or neglect to pay the

same, the pews of such delinquents shall and may be sold by order of said Corporation, at public Auction, for the payment and discharge of such taxes and costs: *Provided nevertheless*, That such sale be previously advertised, at least thirty days before such pews shall be offered for sale, and the surplus money (if any) after the payment of such taxes and costs, shall be lodged with the Treasurer of said Corporation, to be paid over to such delinquents, or their legal representatives, on demand.

SEC. X.—*And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the Charter aforesaid, of one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine, granted to the said Minister, Wardens and Congregation of said Trinity Church, and the subsequent amendments thereto, be, and they hereby are with the assent and at the request of said Minister, Wardens and Congregation, repealed, abrogated and annulled. *Provided nevertheless*, That all acts legally done, and all responsibilities legally incurred, and all by-laws, resolves and regulations passed under said Charter and amendments, shall be and remain in full force and virtue.

A SERMON

In Memory of George C. Mason, Esq.,

PREACHED IN TRINITY CHURCH,

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1894,

BY

THE REV. GEORGE J. MAGILL, D. D., RECTOR.

Psalm I, v. I (Psalter Version). "Blessed is man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners; and hath not sat in the seat of the scornful."

This psalm forms a preface or introduction to the whole book of psalms. Instead of dealing specifically with peculiar conditions of the heart and drawing its lessons from incidents, as most of the other psalms do, it takes a general survey of human character, dividing the world into two great classes—those who live a life of obedience to God, and those who reject Him. It is noticeable, too, that it begins as our Lord's sermon on the Mount does, with the word "blessed." The first impulse, the prevailing tendency of God's heart, is in the direction of beatitude. It is only when men turn their backs upon His love and, persisting in evil courses, deliberately reject His mercy, that His blessing is withheld and the penalty of wickedness becomes their portion. The man that delights in the law of the Lord is like a tree planted by the waterside, bringing forth its fruit in due season. His leaf shall not wither. The Lord knows and approves of his course. But the ungodly are like chaff which the wind scatters away from the face of the earth.

Unless we read the words of the text carefully we shall not, probably, get at their actual meaning. We have heard the pas-

sage quoted as a scriptural condemnation of all who associate with ungodly people. It is a common saying, "a man is known by the company he keeps." But this judgment is not trustworthy. There may be good reasons for one who is thoroughly virtuous to be much in the society of the vicious, and he can occupy this position without the sacrifice of his virtue. Neither is it true that all who move in the circle of respectable people are above reproach. The charge was made against our blessed Lord that He ate and drank with publicans and sinners and called them His friends. You will remember that this accusation came from the Pharisees, the most religious and highly respected sect of the Jews, some of whom were deservedly denounced by Christ as hypocrites. Even if it were just, which I do not think it is, to judge of a man by the character of his associates, the language of the text gives no warrant for the method. It says "Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the *counsel* of the ungodly." He has not followed their advice; he has not yielded to their solicitations; he has not copied their evil example; he has not adopted their wicked practices. His life has been cast amongst them, as Lot dwelt among the people of Sodom. Perhaps his righteous soul, like the patriarch's, has been vexed with their unrighteous deeds. The writer of the psalm counts upon the association of his blessed man with the ungodly, for how otherwise could he be aware of their evil counsel, how be subject to their pernicious suggestions, and be pronounced blessed for resisting them. Again, he "has not stood in the way of sinners." He has lived among them, in the same community. They have had business relations with each other; they have stood side by side daily, in political, social and religious assemblies. They have been fellow-travellers, fellow-students, of his, members of his own household. There was much in them that he could admire. They were brave soldiers, or able statesmen, or great orators or artists, they were generous and humane and affectionate. These qualities which reasonably won his regard, or perhaps the ties of kindred that knit his heart to theirs in love, could not be ignored because they were sinners and he knew it. What kind of a world would it be, where would be the virtue or the value of religion, if sin, in addi-

tion to its corrupting power over the soul, made such surrenders necessary? The blessed man is not an isolated creature, walled in by ramparts from contact with the sinful. His life, mingling with theirs in daily round of duty, preserves its integrity and is a daily witness for God and goodness. Pitying, loving, admiring what is admirable in them, he does not stand in the way of sinners, i. e., he does not approve of their principles and motives and make their standard of morality his own. The *way* of a man is not simply his habits or conduct, but the hidden springs that move his life and make it what it is: the rule, the purpose of his life. The blessed man is one who does not stand on, does not rest upon, is not guided by, the principles which wicked men adopt. Associating with sinners, perhaps their friend and companion, he will not stand in the *way* of sinners. Herein he follows the example of the Divine Master who loved the sinner while He abhorred the sin.

Again the blessed man "hath not sat in the seat of the scornful." The phrase is very significant. The seat is the place from which a judge administers justice. The Judge of Israel sat at the gate of the city to hear cause of the people and pass judgment upon it. How wise, how thoughtful, how discriminating, how impartial, how incorruptible he must be, that he may judge the people with equity! But the scorner cares nothing for equity. His aim is to bring the law and the law-abiding, all good men and good things, into contempt. Ignorant, unprincipled, defiant, reckless of everything but self, he usurps the seat of judgment and the gravest concerns are treated with levity. The commandments of God, His truth, His doctrines, the solemn questions of life and death and a judgment to come, awaken no reverence. They and those who plead for them are ruled out of court as disturbers of the peace, and the scorner sits complacently, not caring that he has wounded, perhaps slain, the faith of simple souls or stifled the voice of his own conscience and insulted Almighty God. Blessed is the man whose respect for God and sacred things has been a coat of mail to protect him as he wended his way among scoffers in the active life of his daily calling. Blessed, that their brazen assurance could not intimidate him. Blessed, that their sneers could not hurt his faith.

Blessed, that they were never able to drag him down to sit with them in their seat of judgment and utter scornful satires upon God and His loving revelation in Jesus Christ. "Jesus Christ and Him crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness," but to the blessed man, whether Jew or Greek, the power of God unto salvation.

Here then, in the opening utterance of the book of psalms, we find the type of man that is pleasing to God, over whom God stretches hands of blessing. It is not a perfect character, perhaps. Some important elements of virtue are lacking, at least they are not in the description. But it is a character that fits into our practical views of every-day life, and possesses the equipment for easy progress unto perfection. The man who is not influenced by the counsel of the ungodly, who will not adopt the principles of deliberate sinners, who has too reverent a heart to sit with scoffers in their contemptuous judgment of sacred things, is the good ground in the parable, ready to receive the precious seed of every truth of God, and to bring forth abundant fruit.

It is no exaggeration, dear friends, to say that George C. Mason, who was lately taken from us by the hand of death, was just such a character as we have been looking at in the person of the man whom the Psalmist calls blessed. Born in this city nearly three-quarters of a century ago, he spent his life, with the exception of eight years, in active occupation among its citizens. His duties were of a kind to bring him into contact with all classes of people, and until within the last few years, when failing health prevented him from being much before the public, he was as widely known as any of our prominent citizens. It would have been a temptation to any man in his situation to yield easily to the prevailing spirit and temper of the times, to wink at habits and customs of which he could not really approve; all the more if he were, as our departed friend was, modest, retiring, unaggressive. But Mr. Mason, without exhibiting his moral principles as the Pharisees of old did their phylacteries, or proclaiming them at the corners of the streets, held them with a quiet firmness that sometimes surprised people who sought for his co-operation or his sanction or even his silence

in questionable measures. On one occasion a person of great wealth wanted his services as an architect. The times were dull, and, of course, every man was anxious to secure all the clientage he could get. The man of wealth was considering the erection of a large and costly house. It would have been an advantage to Mr. Mason, both financially and professionally, to draw the plans for this building and superintend its construction, but after bearing the man's profanity as long as he could, and finding his remonstrances of no avail, he threw up the work and refused to have any further dealings with him. The merely worldly man, or indeed, the man who talks a good deal about religion, might say that such a course was foolish; that we are not responsible for anything in the conduct of people with whom we have business relations. This is true in a certain sense, and it is also true, as I have above intimated, that association with the ungodly is not necessarily wrong unless we are influenced by their evil counsels. But for all that, no one is bound to endure language or conduct that is repugnant to him, if it be not his special vocation to try and reclaim the wicked, or after repeated attempts have failed; and Mr. Mason's emphatic and unselfish disapproval of profanity stands to his credit as a proof of the inward reverence and purity of his heart.

Of his career as a useful citizen it is needless to speak. The evidences are all around us, in societies he helped to found, and institutions he fostered so long as health permitted. The Redwood Library, the Newport Hospital, and other local centres of beneficence, had the benefit of his wise counsel and unstinted labor.

As a literary man, he attempted nothing that might be called a distinctively original work. He held a facile pen; he had a fair inventive spirit, a good imagination and excellent judgment to use it. If he had been able to devote his whole time, instead of only his leisure hours, to literary work, there is no reason to doubt that he could have taken a respectable place among American authors. As it is, he did even greater good to the city of his birth, and honour to himself, by throwing all his spare time into historical and literary researches, and gathering into annals

and reminiscences, interesting and important events in the life of his native city. For this task he seems to have been eminently qualified, both because of the materials he had all his life been collecting together, and because of the almost infinite patience and industry required to arrange the materials in logical and symmetrical order. I think it is only just to say that but for him, many most valuable facts in the early history of Newport would not have been made public, and much that is worth preserving would have perished.

His deepest interest, however, was given to this venerable Church and all that pertains to it. From childhood up to a few weeks before his death he was a regular worshipper here. He never grew too old to kneel in prayer, neither did he, here or elsewhere, feel any false shame for being thought religious, and therefore neglect the becoming postures of true devotion. I think I see him now, as for nearly eighteen years I have seen him, close at my right hand devoutly engaging in the services of the Church, and listening reverently to the word of God read or expounded to him and others. For forty years he was a member of the Vestry, and for thirty years a zealous and faithful Senior Warden. Conservative by nature as well as on principle, he was averse to any change, either in the material edifice or the character of the worship offered within its walls. And yet he was not unwilling, nay he was sometimes glad, to have improvements in both when it was manifest that they were improvements tending to render the service of Almighty God more effective, more beautiful, more dignified and worthier of Him to whom it was offered. What he did for the temporal interests of the Parish is well known to those who were associated with him in the work, and was attested by the general and strong regret expressed when a few years ago he retired from active service.

The early history of Trinity Church, which may be fairly said to comprise a history of colonial days and of the childhood of this State, has been preserved by him for all time in the first volume of the "Annals." Another volume, also his work, will soon be issued from the press, carrying the history on to the present time. If George C. Mason had done nothing more than

this for the Church he loved so well, he would deserve the gratitude of all members of the Church, and indeed of all citizens who desire to have in permanent form some account of the interesting incidents of Newport's early life.

But the time would fail me to recount all that Mr. Mason did for this city, and especially for this venerable Church. I turn from these to the man himself and there stands before me the character the Psalmist has pronounced "blessed." I do not presume to fathom the depths of the spirit, which God alone can see. I have not the daring nor the desire to bring out the tender grace of the inner life and dissect it before you, even if I could. I would not venture upon this simple and unworthy panegyric of a good man, were it not for the salutary lessons such a character supplies. Is it not something, is it not a great deal, my dear friends, in this busy restless age, when men are rising and falling in ceaseless undulation on the waves of fortune, when men are casting away the chart and compass of the old faith, drifting hither and thither in quest of new truth as they term it, turning their faces from the sun and trusting to broken lights for guidance, is it not a great thing, for which we ought to give God thanks, to note some character that stands unmoved amidst the quickly shifting changes? So it seems to me there rises out of the recent past—alas! that it must be the past—so will ever come to my memory's vision, that delicate form which had no strength except in heart and intellect and faith, but was there so strong. I see him day after day, year after year, always the same. The same reverence for God, the same respect for His holy day, the same hope and faith and piety, the same avoidance of evil counsel, the same chaste conversation, the same purity of life. Why! It is so even, so uneventful, that it seems tame and monotonous to one who looks for demonstrative ups and downs in the Christian life, forgetting the fateful meteor and the quiet, unobtrusive, perpetual shining of the fixed stars. If Mr. Mason was not an aggressive man, neither was he one who could be kept back from the steady course of duty which his religion prescribed for him. Here lay his moral strength. He had a purpose in life. It was to reach the goal where his Saviour stood with the prize—the crown of immortal life. The

counsel of the ungodly could not distract him or turn him from his chosen course. He went on as one who did not hear. The way of sinners had no attraction for him. He could not adopt their methods; he knew that the end was death, and he wanted life. He could not sit in the seat of the scornful. How could he whose hope was in God, whose faith was so simple that to some his Christian life seemed commonplace, how could he take the words of scoffers upon his lips and utter scornful satires against God and sacred things? It would have spoiled the purpose of his life to have had the thought of it in his heart. His whole life, so simple, so sincere, so reverent, made it impossible.

Do I overrate his character? I believe not. I have already said that the Psalmist's blessed man was not a perfect man. He was blessed for his resistance to the blandishments of ungodliness, sin and scornful scepticism. There may have been other failings that were peculiar to him. The points wherein he excelled are not the sum of all the virtues. There is no man that liveth and sinneth not. The most we can do is to make some progress towards perfection; to fashion our lives so that there will be no insurmountable obstacle to the entrance of God's grace, and to go on with quiet, steady pace in the way that God has marked out for us, the way that leadeth to eternal life.

So much I am convinced can be said of our deceased friend Mr. Mason. I would, with all my heart, that the young men growing up around me, who are members of this parish, might emulate the character of the good man who has left us and gone to his reward. I would that all of us, young and old, men, women and children, might have a firmer faith in God, a stronger reliance on His promises, a more thorough devotion to His service, so that the voices of ungodliness and sin and scorn of holy things, which are appealing to us every day, might have no power to move us, that we might reach the standard even of the Psalmist's blessed man, and work and wait with patience for the fuller, richer, more abundant blessings that our loving Lord is ever ready to bestow upon the souls

"That trust in His redeeming Blood
And try His works to do."

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